

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE ACCOUNTS OF

The Swamp Land Commissioners,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE.

March, 1855.

NEW ORLEANS:
EMILE LA SERE, STATE PRINTER,
1855.

COPY OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF JANUARY 23d, 1855.

"RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein, That a Joint Committee of the two Houses be appointed for the purpose of examining the accounts of the Swamp Land Commissioners, and of examining into the manner in which the said Commissioners have performed the duties of their office—said Committee to consist of five members of the House, and three members of the Senate."

List of the Committee appointed by the several branches of the Legislature :

On the part of the Senate:—HON. LOUIS HEBERT, HON. W. W. KING, and HON. W. T. PALFREY.

On the part of the House of Representatives:—HON. B. B. SIMMES, HON. J. S. WILLIAMS, HON. W. W. PUGH, HON. E. LAWRENCE, HON. S. C. FLOYD, who resigned, and in his stead was appointed HON. H. McCULLOUGH."

EDWIN FLOYD, Clerk of Joint Committee.

COPY OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF FEBRUARY 9th, 1855.

"Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened, That the Joint Committee of the House and Senate appointed for the purpose of examining the accounts and proceedings of the Swamp Land Commissioners, are hereby invested with full power to send for persons and papers, and to examine said persons under oath, on all matters constituting the present Committee, and further, that the Chairman be also authorized to employ a clerk."

REPORT.

To the Honorable the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana :

The joint committee of the two Houses appointed to investigate the accounts and proceedings of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, respectfully submit the record of their proceedings with a few remarks thereon as their report to the Legislature of their investigation of the subject referred to them.

The committee recommend the printing of the record of their proceedings as the best exposition they can give of the subjects they were required to investigate.

The perusal of that record cannot fail to suggest many inquiries of the greatest importance in reference to the past, as well as the future management of the Swamp Land Fund.

The committee cannot, without trespassing perhaps too much upon the time of the Legislature, now contracted to but a few days, point out but a limited number of those subjects worthy of comment.

Commencing first with the Board of Commissioners as an organized body ; from the 13th, 17th and 19th sections of the Act of 1854, for the reclaiming and draining of the swamp and overflowed lands, the committee are of opinion that it was the intention of the Act, the Board of Commissioners should exercise a general supervisory control over the operations of each commissioner. To establish this, a complete record of all the contracts and proceedings of each commissioner should be kept by the Board. The 7th section of the Act provides for a Secretary of the Board, and gives him a salary.

It appears from the record of the proceedings of the committee, especially from the evidence of Mr. Miller, which shows that he could not produce his contracts when called on until after the lapse of several days, that the Board of Commissioners have not exercised that

supervisory control over the actions of its respective members that the law contemplated.

It further appears that the Board have suffered single commissioners, whose official bonds were only five thousand dollars, to draw out sums which were entrusted to their individual responsibility, amounting to many times the sum of their official bonds. This is apparent from the testimony of Mr. Townes. It further appears that Mr. Townes and Mr. Jenkins, commissioners of the Fourth and First Districts, deposited the funds drawn by them in Bank to their individual credit, thereby, in the case of their death, jeopardizing the interests of the State. It further appears that Mr. Townes now has in his possession at his own house, a sum considerably exceeding the amount of his official bond. Mr. Townes explains this by saying that he considered that sum necessary to meet any unexpected emergencies that might arise in his district during the coming season of high water. Without meaning to attach particular censure to any one, the committee cannot refrain from remarking, that this mode of taking care of the public funds is attended with very great risk, and should never be permitted unless in cases of extreme peril, or actual disaster.

The Board have sanctioned the expenditure of a large sum for the building of a dredge boat, to be paid for out of the funds apportioned to the First and Third Districts. There is no express warrant in the law for the use of the Swamp Land Fund for any such purpose, nor has any necessity which justified the expenditure been shown to the committee, especially so far as the First District was concerned. The propriety also of confounding the funds appropriated to two separate districts for the purpose of building a boat to be used for an indefinite period in one of the districts has not been proved to the committee. Where the funds are thus confounded, there should certainly have been some stipulation that the boat should be used in the respective districts in proportion to the amount contributed by each district—which was not done in this instance. Mr. Jenkins, the present commissioner, says the project of the dredge boat was entered into by Mr. Grant, his predecessor, before he came into office.

Passing from the board to the individual commissioners, taking them up in their numerical order, Mr. Jenkins, the commissioner of the First District states in his annual report that he has commenced a series of works to levee and reclaim the swamp lands on Cat Island. The whole area of Cat Island is 37,103 acres, of which about 15,404 accrued to the State under the donation from Congress. Of this 15,404 acres, the greater portion was entered at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, within a short time after the design of reclaiming it by the funds of the State became known.

To reclaim this tract of country Mr. Jenkins has already made contracts amounting to \$78,939 42, and contemplates an additional expenditure necessary to complete the work, sufficient to make the aggregate sum \$105,261 68. If we add to this the expenses of the

department, which should be done, as this was the only work undertaken in his district, the cost of reclaiming Cat Island exceeds \$110,000.

So large an expenditure for so small a tract of land, struck the committee with surprise, especially as it is believed that a fraction of the sum could have been expended so as to have protected the city of New Orleans from inundation, and also have reclaimed swamp land in the vicinity of that city.

Mr. Jenkins urges as a reason for this otherwise unaccountable expenditure, that the works had been advised by his predecessor in the office, and that the lands on Cat Island had been injured by the Raccourci cut-off. Neither of these reasons are satisfactory to the committee. Mr. Jenkins was under no legal obligation to have followed the advice of Mr. Grant, his predecessor, and if his own judgment did not approve of the expenditure for the purpose to be accomplished, he never should have sanctioned it. In answer, the second or additional reason assigned by Mr. Jenkins, the committee are of opinion that the swamp lands were not donated to the State by Congress for the purpose of indemnifying the people of Cat Island for the damages they may have sustained by the Raccourci cut-off.

It is apparent from Mr. Jenkins' own statement that he has devoted but very little personal attention to the duties of his office. All that he has done in the official examination of his district, was to visit the works on Cat Island twice, and to visit once a point about twelve miles below the city of Baton Rouge.

In regard to the accounts of Mr. Jenkins and his engineer, Mr. Ritter, reference is made to the report of the sub-committee appointed to examine them. That report exhibits a state of things unsatisfactory to the committee.

From the annual report of Mr. Jenkins, and his accounts, it appears that he had contracted for making a dredge boat and for building a levee on Cat Island for an expenditure of \$88,077 35, while the whole sum appropriated to his district was only \$65,625, thus exceeding the amount appropriated \$22,452 35. The 28th section of the act of 1854, expressly prohibits the entering into contracts beyond the sum appropriated. There is also another serious objection to this mode of doing business. The estimated expenditure for reclaiming Cat Island is \$105,201. To render the work already done efficient, the whole work should be completed. The commissioner has so managed as to risk all the money heretofore expended, because the work cannot be completed for the want of funds before the next high water.

Mr. G. B. Miller is the commissioner of the Second District. As to the manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office, the committee refer to the record of their proceedings. There are, however, some points which it may be useful to notice briefly.

It appears from Mr. Miller's own evidence, that during the time he was acting as commissioner he was interested equally with another individual in the entry of a large body of swamp land (say 14,290 88-100 acres,) belonging to the State, the principal part of which was situated in his own district, and the remainder in an adjoining district, the works of which, in the vicinity of his entries, he had the supervision and control of by a power of attorney from the commissioner of that district. He was also interested with his brother in entries of land on Last Island.

The committee do not feel authorized, from any evidence before them, to charge him with having used the swamp land funds to make improvements for the especial benefit of lands in which he was interested. It is even doubtful, under the evidence, whether the work done by him has benefited his lands, there being a variety of opinions on this point. He says himself that "he had received bids for work which, when completed, would add to the value of lands that he had entered, but as yet he had not completed any contracts."

In justice to Mr. Miller, it is proper to add, that the works done by him in the vicinity of lands in which he was interested, appear to have been done in the execution of a general system for the reclaiming of lands on the Atchafalaya.

There is no law which prevented Mr. Miller from entering such lands as he desired; but as the right of the commissioners entrusted with the expenditure of the public funds to speculate in the lands which they are expending large sums to reclaim, is liable to great abuse, the committee would recommend some change in the law, which would deprive them of any such power.

It further appears that Mr. Miller accepted the bid of Bartholomew Collins for making Lafourche outlet, a work costing about \$19,000, without any knowledge of the sureties given or their solvency, as is required by the fourteenth section of the act. No damage has resulted to the public from this loose manner of making the contract, but the committee are of opinion that the commissioners should always be satisfied of the solvency of the sureties before they let out a contract. The price at which the contract was let out—to wit: 45 cents per cubic yard—also appears to the committee to have been extraordinarily high.

Mr. Miller let out various contracts, as appears from his own statements, without the previous advertisements required by law. The committee would advise a strict adherence to the law in this respect, whenever it is possible. Amongst the works so done were the building of several culverts on streams which had been levied on the Atchafalaya. One of the culverts has given way, and the committee have great doubts as to the efficacy of culverts as a permanent improvement.

It also appears from the testimony of Mr. Miller that he was a member of the Legislature during the sessions of 1853 and 1854.

The act under which he was appointed was passed in the year 1854, and he was appointed in the May of that year following the adjournment of the Legislature, which took place in March. The 27th article of the Constitution declares: "No Senator or Representative shall, during the term for which he was elected, nor for one year thereafter, be appointed or elected to any civil office of profit under this State, which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased, during the time such Senator or Representative was in office."

Under these circumstances, the committee are of opinion that Mr. Miller was ineligible to the office at the time of his appointment.

The 22d section of the act of 1854 requires the commissioners annually, on the 1st of January, to report to the Governor all their official transactions. When called upon by the committee for their accounts and vouchers, it was evident that this provision of the law had been but partially complied with. The investigations of the committee were greatly embarrassed and retarded on this account. The accounts, when furnished, were not properly made out, and the vouchers for many items of expenditure were not furnished.

It would be tedious and useless to recapitulate many things that will strike the mind of any one who examines the record of the proceedings of the committee. Before however closing this report, the committee would most earnestly endeavor to call the attention of the Legislature to the reports of the sub-committees on the accounts of the commissioners and their Engineers. The law limits the amount of their personal expenses to a fixed sum, yet this has been disregarded by several of the Commissioners and their engineers. Every disbursing officer of the State should be held to strict account of the manner in which the public money has been expended. The Act of 1854 evidently contemplates this in regard to the Swamp Land Commissioners. It is idle to pass laws holding public officers to such a responsibility if those laws can be violated with impunity. It is evident from the testimony before the Committee that large sums of the Swamp Land fund have been expended for which there are no sufficient vouchers. If this abuse is suffered to continue without some check, it may not be long before the whole fund will be squandered *ad libitum*, or pocketed without any recourse on the part of the State. The defects in the accounts have been pointed out by the Committee. It remains for the Legislature to take such action thereon as may be deemed advisable. It is certain that every officer charged with the disbursement of public money should account therefor or that all legal remedies against him should be exhausted, to compel him to render such an account.

The committee in submitting this report would beg to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

LOUIS HEBERT, *Chairman on the part of the Senate.*

B. B. SIMMES, *Chairman on the part of the House.*

MINUTES

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE OF HOUSE AND SENATE TO EXAMINE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONERS, ETC.

FIRST MEETING, FEBRUARY 9th, 1855.

At a meeting of the Committee, held in the Senate Finance Committee Room at 9 o'clock, A. M., the following members were present, viz. :

Hon. W. W. King of Senate ; Hon. Mr. Palfrey, do. ; Hon. B. B. Simmes of House ; Hon. Mr. Williams, do. ; Hon. W. W. Pugh, do. ; Hon. S. C. Floyd, do. ; Hon. Mr. Lawrence, do. Only member absent being the Hon. Louis Hébert of Senate.

When, on motion of Hon. W. W. King, it was resolved that Hon. B. B. Simmes be appointed Chairman of Joint Committee.

The objects of the meeting were then stated by the Chairman to the Committee, and the joint resolution was read appointing the Committee.

When the following resolution was offered by the Hon. W. W. Pugh, viz. :

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Committee be requested to ask from both houses of the Legislature the power to call for persons and papers, and to examine said persons under oath, on matters embraced in the resolution constituting the present Committee; and further, that the Chairman of this Committee shall have power to administer oaths, and that the Committee be also authorized to appoint a Clerk, which was unanimously carried.

The following resolution was then offered by Hon. Mr. Lawrence, viz. :

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Committee be requested to notify the Swamp Land Commissioners to meet this Committee at the office of said Commissioners, this day at 5 o'clock, p. m. Carried.

Hon. Mr. Palfrey then offered the following resolution, viz. :

Resolved, That all proceedings which may take place during the

Sessions of this Committee, be considered as entirely confidential and private, both by the members and the Clerk, until a report be agreed upon, which was carried.

On motion, the Clerk was then ordered to notify the Swamp Land Commissioners, individually, in writing, of the proposed meeting of the Committee with the said Commissioners.

The Committee then adjourned.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

SECOND MEETING, FEBRUARY 9, 1855.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment at 5 o'clock, P. M., at the office of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, the following members being present, viz: Hon. B. B. Simmes, Chairman, presiding; Hon. W. W. King, W. T. Palfrey, — Williams, W. W. Pugh, S. C. Floyd, and E. Lawrence; only member absent being Hon. Louis Hébert.

The Swamp Land Commissioners, with the exception of Dr. Butler, being present, were then requested to retire from the room while the committee were adopting some settled course of action in regard to the proposed examination.

When, after discussion, and on motion of the Hon. W. W. King, the following programme of the line of investigation at present, was unanimously adopted:

PROGRAMME.

1. Enquiries to be made of the Commissioners, and their commissions, bonds, and other of their papers, required by the committee, to be produced and delivered to this committee by said commissioners.

2. The accounts of said commissioners, with vouchers therefor, all contracts made, or advertised, or contemplated, with the sureties given by the contractors, and all such contracts, as may have been entered into, or are in contemplation, since the first day of January, 1855, to be produced and delivered to this committee by said commissioners.

3. That the committee shall ascertain whether or not all the expenditures made by each Commissioner, have been authorized by the Board of Commissioners, and that in this connection the committee shall ask the said commissioners to lay before them the book of their proceedings or minutes.

4. That the investigations of this committee shall commence with the accounts of the Commissioner of the Fourth District, and proceed with each commissioner in the reverse numerical order of Districts.

5. That the committee shall ascertain if either of the commissioners was a member of the legislature at the time of the passage of the acts upon the subject in 1853 and 1854. And also, if each of said

commissioners, was, at the date of his appointment to his said office of Swamp Land Commissioner, a legal voter in the District to which he was appointed.

6. Where, when and in what bank or institution, the funds drawn by each commissioner, in his official capacity, are, or may have been deposited, and whether such funds are, or may have been deposited to the individual credit of each commissioner, or to their credits in their said official capacity; the amount of cash in their hands, and the vouchers therefor.

7. Whether either of said commissioners have been interested directly or indirectly, in any contract made by them or under their authority as Swamp Land Commissioners.

8. Whether either of said commissioners have entered or been interested in the entry of any lands in their Districts or in the State, during their term of office.

9. And that the examination of said commissioners and of all other parties to this investigation, shall be made under oath.

After which Mr. E. B. Towne, Commissioner of the Fourth District, was called in and duly sworn by the chairman, who testified as follows, viz:

Witness had not his commission with him, but presumed that a record of it could be found in the office of the Secretary of State; he refers to the Governor as the proper custodian of his bond. He produced his statement or account of all the money he has drawn in his official capacity, and filed the same with the committee, marked T. No. 2. He stated that the amount of money he had drawn was \$29,375, and the balance of the \$30,000 was drawn by Mr. Peck, his engineer, for his quarterly salary. He produced the following papers, which were filed with the committee; Bond and contract with vouchers, marked T. No. 3; contract marked T. No. 4; Engineers certificate marked T. No. 5; McGuire's receipts marked T. No. 6; contract marked T. No. 7; Engineers' report marked T. No. 8; William English's receipts marked T. No. 9, vouchers in envelope (marked 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12) marked T. No. 10; vouchers in envelope (marked 13, 14, 15 and 16) marked T. No. 11.

He acknowledges that his account showing that a balance of cash amounting to \$8,880 62 now, not expended, is correct, and that the said balance in cash was now in his hands. He filed Mr. Peck's (engineer) bond, marked T. No. 12. He stated that the contracts were advertised according to law, in Concordia and Catahoula, but were not published in Morehouse Parish, as he was informed, although his advertisement in the Concordia newspaper requested the Morehouse newspaper to copy it. He stated that the contemplated contracts mentioned in his annual report have since been let out at the following rates, viz: the Cocodra at 34½ cents per cubic yard; the Tressler Bayou, Island Bayou and lower mouth of Cut Off Bayou, at 24½ cents per cubic yard; McNeely's Bayou at 10 cents per cubic

yard; in Catahoula Parish, Bœuff Bayou, at 22½ cents per cubic yard; Bank Levees, connecting the Cut Off with the State Levee at 14 cents per cubic yard; levee between Ion and Kelly's at 16 cents per cubic yard; additions to the State Levee at Lafourche, in Morehouse Parish, at 22½ cents per cubic yard.

He stated that he did not think the contract price would exceed the estimates made in his annual report, and that the works contracted for have all been authorized by the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, acting in session.

He stated that he was not a member of the Legislature in 1853, and that he was a legal voter in the Swamp Land District to which he was appointed, at the time of his appointment. He stated that he kept his bank account with Brown, Johnston & Co., of New Orleans, and Brown and Johnston of Vicksburg, in his individual name, and the funds were deposited to his individual credit, and not as Swamp Land Commissioner; when he drew checks on Brown, Johnston & Co., he drew in his own name, and not as Swamp Land Commissioner.

He stated that the statement he had rendered the committee shewed the amount of money he had received, and the "term" it was placed to his credit. He stated that he was not interested, directly nor indirectly, in any contracts made by him as Swamp Land Commissioner, and that he had not been interested in the entry of any lands, since he has been Swamp Land Commissioner, directly nor indirectly; nor did he think or know that any person connected with his department in the Fourth District, had been interested in the entry of lands.

He furnished the committee with a written account of his personal expenses in traveling, &c., in his official capacity, and vouchers, which was filed and marked T. No. 13.

The committee, having then no further questions to propound, the statement of Mr. Towne was here closed.

Mr. W. H. Peck, Engineer of the Fourth Swamp Land District, was then called before the committee, and after being duly sworn by the chairman, testified as follows, viz: He produced his official account as Engineer of the Fourth District, which was placed on file, marked P. No. 1, and stated that he had vouchers for a very small portion of his accounts, and which said vouchers he delivered in an envelope, and was placed also on file. He stated that he had not been interested, directly nor indirectly, in any contract made by the Commissioner of the Fourth District, and that he had not been interested in the entry of any lands during his term of office. The committee having no further questions to propound, the statement of Mr. Peck was here closed.

When Mr. T. B. R. Hatch, Secretary of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, came before the committee and stated that the accounts and vouchers of Dr. Butler, one of the commissioners, had been left with him for presentation to this committee.

Hon. B. B. Simmes, Chairman and Hon. W. T. Palfrey were, by a

vote of the committee, appointed as a sub-committee to examine the papers and vouchers of Dr. Butler, and report on the same at the next meeting of the committee.

On motion, the committee then adjourned until to-morrow evening, at 5 o'clock.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

THIRD MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 1855.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment at their room at 5 o'clock P. M., the following members being present, viz.: Hon. B. B. Simmes, chairman, presiding; Hon. W. W. King and W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate and Hons. W. W. Pugh, H. McCullough and E. Lawrence of the House. Members absent being Hon. Louis Hébert of the Senate and Hon. Mr. Williams of the House.

The minutes of the two last meetings were read and approved; when on motion of Hon. W. W. King, it was resolved that the 6th section of the "Programme of enquiries to be made of Commissioners" be amended so as to terminate with these words, viz.:—"The amount of cash in their hands and the vouchers thereof."

Mr. E. B. Towne was then called before the committee, and after hearing his testimony read by the clerk from the minutes of the last meeting, requested the same to be corrected, which request was granted by the committee, and after the said corrections were made by the clerk, Mr. Towne approved of the correctness of the transcript of his said testimony.

Hon. B. B. Simmes and W. T. Palfrey sub-committee to examine the papers and vouchers of Dr. Butler, appointed at last meeting, declared that they were not ready to make a report.

On motion of Hon. E. Lawrence, it was resolved that Mr. E. B. Towne be recalled before the committee for the purpose of propounding certain interrogatories; and at the request of the committee, Mr. E. B. Towne again came before them, and on being questioned by Mr. Lawrence stated that the balance of cash remaining in hands and drawn by him as Swamp Land Commissioner, was at his house.

On being further questioned by the Hon. W. W. Pugh, he also stated that he thought it was not the custom for the Swamp Land Commissioners to draw more money than was required for outlays, and that he had drawn at the meetings of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, money for engagements that would accrue before the next meeting of the Board; and also that he had not received any interest or per centage on any moneys deposited by him belonging to the State.

On motion of Hon. W. W. King, it was resolved that Mr. E. B. Towne and his Engineer be discharged from examination and further attendance on this committee.

After which Mr. G. B. Miller, Swamp Land Commissioner of the

Second District, was called before the committee, who after being duly sworn by the chairman, testified and stated as follows, viz :

That his commission was at home, that he believed he had with him his accounts with vouchers therefor. He then produced his account and vouchers.

Being here called upon by the Hon. W. W. King to produce all his contracts—answered, That he had no list of contracts ; he then produced a contract for building the hull of a dredging boat, and stated that the said contract was signed by Mr. Grant, as commissioner of the First District, with his sanction. Marked "M. No. 1," and filed.

He produced a contract signed by himself and Mr. Grant, with Mr. John Armstrong for the machinery of a dredging boat. Marked "M. No. 2," and filed.

He produced an unfinished contract, marked "M. No. 3," and filed. He produced the bond of Reason Cripps for the closing of three Bayous, which said contract, he stated, he had before he was appointed commissioner, and before he acted in his official capacity of Swamp Land Commissioner. He requested the old board to give him power to assign the same to Reason Cripps, which was granted by the board. Marked "M. No. 4," and filed. He produced the bond of John L. Daniels, which he stated was now forfeited. Marked "M. No. 5," and filed.

He produced the bond of Mr. Collins given for completion of work for Bayou Lafourche outlet. Marked "M. No. 6," and filed.

He stated that he supposed the amount of the last named contract was about \$19,000, that he did not know Mr. Bartholomew Collins personally, that he did not think said Bartholomew was worth much, probably about three or four thousand dollars.

He stated that he did not know Mr. Henry McGwin, and knew nothing about his circumstances ; also that he did not know Mr. Wm. Kearney, and knew nothing about his circumstances ; and also that he had requested Mr. Grant to take the said last named bond in New Orleans, and that he took it for a less amount than in his opinion it ought to have been taken. That the work was completed, except what was left to keep the waters of the Lafourche out of the canal until the marshes in the rear were dredged ; that the contract was let out at forty-five cents per cubic yard ; that the canal was one hundred and twenty feet wide by six or seven feet deep, and that the contract for said work was not with him, nor was it filed in the Board of Swamp Land Commissioner's office, but that it remained filed in the parish of Lafourche. He also stated that the certificate of the Engineer as far as the work was done, had been delivered by him to the committee. He also stated that he does not take copies of his contracts, which were drawn before Notaries, and that he did so to avoid expense. He stated that he had no other contracts with him than those he had already filed with the committee.

He produced bids for the Lafourche contracts, and also bids for

building a dredge boat. He also stated that he had no list of the contracts he had made.

When, on motion of the Hon. W. W. King, it was unanimously Resolved, "That Mr. G. B. Miller be, and is hereby required to produce to this Committee all the contracts he has made as Commissioner of the Second District, or those made by his Engineer, or any other person by his authority, by next Monday week."

He, the said G. B. Miller, then further stated that he contemplated using the dredge boat for the completion of the Lafourche outlet, and that all the other works contemplated by him were mentioned in his Annual Report.

He stated that he had not let any work without advertising, except that of the embankment on the south bank of the Chenal in West Baton Rouge, and the repairs on the Grand Levee, which last was done, at the request of the Engineer of his district, as the rise of the water would not give time for the delay caused by advertizing; and another contract for work on a small bayou near the Lafinach which was done by Mr. Grant without advertizing. He stated that he was a member of the Legislature in the year 1853 and 1854, during the whole time of the Sessions of both years, and that he was a legal voter in the Swamp Land District to which he was appointed Commissioner at the time of his appointment. He stated that he had left blank warrants, signed by himself as Swamp Land Commissioner, in the hands of Mr. T. B. R. Hatch, the Secretary of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, to be filled up by him to correspond to certificates returned by the Engineer for the works done. He stated that the money for his Swamp Land District, was left in the Treasury at Baton Rouge, and that he had at times drawn money from the Treasury and placed the same in the hands of Mr. Hatch, to be paid out by him for advertizing and other small accounts.

He stated that the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners has nothing to do with appropriating for his district, and 11-32 ds. of all money of the Swamp Land Fund, appropriated, the law places to his credit or the credit of his district. He stated that the majority of Swamp Land Commissioners signed the warrants for money; that he drew as Commissioner, except in two or three cases, where the Auditor himself advanced the money until the signatures of a majority of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners were obtained.

He stated that he had no money in his hands belonging to the Swamp Land Fund.

He stated that he was not instructed personally in any of the contracts or works in his district, that two culverts, which are still on his hands, are done by daily labor, and not let out by contract, he paying for the same as Commissioner. He stated that his Engineer had not to his knowledge been interested directly nor indirectly in any of the contracts. He stated that he had been interested in the entry of lands belonging to the State, in his district, during his term

of office. He stated that he did not know what quantity of lands he had entered, without referring to the list.

On motion of the Hon. E. Lawrence, it was Resolved, "That Mr. G. B. Miller be required to lay before this Committee a correct statement of the quantity of lands belonging to the State, which he may have entered while holding the office of Swamp Land Commissioner."

Mr. Miller here asked leave to make a statement to the Committee, and leave being granted, stated as follows: That on or about the third day of May, 1853, he made an agreement with James Robb, and John Slidell, this being before the period that the first Board of Swamp Land Commissioners were appointed, the agreement was made in New Orleans, and was made for the purpose of entering lands; that he knew of a body of land that he wanted to enter, that Robb and Slidell had the means, and he had not, that the proposition was that the lands were to be equally divided among the three, Robb and Slidell agreeing to pay all expenditures, and he was to pay them back one third of the amount advanced by them, with 8 per cent. per annum interest; that he was to have his third of the lands at any time by giving them a mortgage on it up to the time of payment, which was five years; that this agreement ran on for some time, he saw Mr. Robb once or twice, and he, Robb, said that if Mr. Slidell would take the affair on his hands, he, Robb, would not enter any lands; that Mr. Slidell then proposed to pay all the money, take one half of the land entered and to give him three years to pay for his share; that this last agreement was made and entered into after his said appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner. That he entered a large portion of the lands immediately after the last agreement, and that the most of the land was entered before he saw it, and after his appointment as Commissioner.

Mr. Miller here produced the two contracts, which were read and returned to him, he promising to have a copy of the same laid before the Committee. He stated, that Governor Hébert was not aware of his being interested with Mr. John Slidell in the entry of lands.

That he had not constructed, nor caused to be constructed, any levees in the vicinity of his lands, that he had received bids for works which when completed would add to the value of lands that he had entered, but he had not as yet completed any contracts.

That he had received bids for closing the little Alabama, and a contract was entered into, but no security being given, the work had not been touched; that all works which have been done above that point will, as he believes, materially injure instead of benefitting the lands that he has entered.

That he commenced improving about fifteen miles down the Atchafalaya by closing bayous on both sides, and the effect would be to increase the volume of water in the channel, and throw it on to the lands that he had entered. That he is not interested in the entry of

any other lands, except those entered according to his agreement with John Slidell.

Messrs. King, Pugh and Williams, were then appointed a sub-committee to examine the accounts of Doctor Butler.

On motion, the Committee then adjourned.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

FOURTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 22nd.

The committee met at their room pursuant to notice at 9 o'clock, A. M., the following members being present, viz: Hon. Louis Hebert, Chairman, presiding. Hons. W. W. King, and W. T. Palfrey of the Senate, and Hon's. B. B. Simmes, W. W. Pugh, E. Lawrence, and H. McCullough, of the House. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with, when the Hon. W. W. King, chairman of sub-committee appointed to examine the account of Dr. Butler, reported that the accounts had been duly examined and were found in form and correct and also found to correspond with the vouchers, and that the same was approved by the committee.

Hon. W. T. Palfrey also reported from same committee that they had duly examined the accounts and vouchers of W. H. Osborne, the engineer of Dr. Butler's district and compared the same with Dr. Butler's account, and had found the same correct, with the exception that the vouchers for his account of personal expenses, exceeded the charges in his said account in the amount of forty-eight dollars and ninety-nine cents, otherwise the said accounts were approved by the committee.

The statement of the Register of the Land Office, which was referred to the committee by the Senate, was then taken up, and after discussion was laid over for further consideration.

On motion of Hon. W. W. King, the chairman appointed Hon. W. T. Palfrey, and Hon. E. Lawrence, as a sub-committee to examine the accounts and vouchers of Mr. G. B. Miller, and report on the same to the committee, after which, the papers, accounts and documents which had been furnished the committee by said G. B. Miller, were delivered to the Hon. W. T. Palfrey by the clerk.

Mr. G. B. Miller here came before the committee and stated that in obedience to a resolution passed by the committee at its last meeting, he had in addition to the contract, vouchers and contracts delivered by him previously, all of his documents, with him, except one that was locked up in the office of Wm. Monaghan, a Notary of New Orleans who had absconded. He then produced thirteen documents, which were handed to the clerk and by him delivered to Hon. W. T. Palfrey, chairman of sub-committee to examine said accounts. Mr. Miller asked leave to correct the list of lands entered by him

by adding some that had been entered by him and his brother at Last Island, which was granted, and the list being corrected by Mr. Miller was returned by him to the clerk.

Mr. Miller also asked leave to introduce witnesses for the purpose of showing that the lands entered by him had been injured by the works which had been completed under his supervision, as Swamp Land Commissioner. When, on motion, the committee granted leave as required.

Mr. L. J. Sigur, Register of the Land Office, then came before the committee at the request of Mr. Miller, when the objects of calling him was explained by the chairman, who also administered the oath to him required by law.

The following question was then propounded to Mr. Sigur by the chairman :

"Have the lands entered by Mr. Miller been benefitted by the works constructed by him as Swamp Land Commissioner?"

Which was answered by Mr. Sigur as follows :

"I can speak only as to the lands entered by him in the South Eastern District. I do not know by actual observation what would be the effect of any work undertaken in township two, range seven, upon the entries made by Mr. Miller, in township one, range seven, but with regard to all entries made by him in township seven, range seven, eight range eight, and six range eight, no work already made or ordered by him can benefit any lands entered by Mr. Miller or Mr. John Slidell in connection with him."

2nd question.—How are the lands entered by Mr. Miller in connection with Mr. John Slidell, affected by the works done by the Swamp Land Commissioners in the South western district?

Answer—I know nothing about that.

3rd question.—Do you know that Mr. Miller had, previously to appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner, expressed his intention of entering lands?

Answer.—I know that Mr. Miller spoke of entering lands during the session of the Legislature of 1853.

Mr. Sigur was then discharged from further attendance on the committee.

On motion of Hon. B. B. Simmies, it was resolved, that Mr. Jenkins, Swamp Land Commissioner, be requested to come before the committee and produce his accounts in his said official capacity. When Mr. G. B. Miller again came before the committee and stated, that he had a power of attorney from Dr. Butler, Swamp Land Commissioner, and that under the said power of attorney, he had let out contracts for Yellow Bayou at both mouths, Cowpen, Crocket, and Alligator Bayous, that since letting out the contracts before named, he had let out in a similar manner for Dr. Butler contracts for Turner's Bayou and a ditch back of it, and for Mill Bayou, he also stated that the work on Yellow Bayou, was contracted for and done under a Resolution of the Legislature.

Mr. Jenkins, Swamp Land Commissioner of the First District then

came before the committee, who after being duly sworn by the chairman was informed of the objects of calling him, and had the programme, adopted by the committee read to him.

The production of the bond and commission of Mr. Jenkins was waived by the committee.

When, on motion of the Hon. B. B. Simmes, it was resolved that the Hon. W. W. Pugh and McCullough be appointed a sub-committee to examine the accounts and vouchers of Mr. Jenkins and report upon the same.

Mr. Jenkins' examination was then commenced, who stated that he was not a member of the Legislature of this State during the sessions of 1853 and 1854, that he was not a legal voter in the Swamp Land District to which he was appointed at the time of his appointment, that he deposited all funds drawn by him as Swamp Land Commissioner, that he did not use immediately, in the Branch of the State Bank of Louisiana, in Baton Rouge.

In answer to a question propounded by Hon. B. B. Simms, in regard to the date of his said deposits, he further stated that he had not his bank book with him. That the said funds were deposited in said Bank, in his individual name and not as Swamp Land Commissioner. He stated that he did not know precisely the amount of money belonging to the Swamp Land Fund, he had in hand, or on deposit at the present time, but that he would furnish the statement if required.

He stated that he had not been interested in the entry of any lands, in his district or in the State since his appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner, and that he had not been interested in any contract made by him, directly or indirectly as Swamp Land Commissioner.

Hon. B. B. Simmes then propounded the following questions, viz :
 "Are you in the habit of allowing your engineer to make contracts without authority from yourself?" Which was answered by Mr. Jenkins, as follows :

"No Sir, I do not consider that any formal contracts have been entered into by the Engineer."

When Hon. B. B. Simms stated that he wished to call the attention of Mr. Jenkins to the expenditures on Cat Island, where \$78,000 had been already expended in reclaiming 15,404 acres of land, and also wished Mr. Jenkins to give an explanation of the affair to the committee. And after discussion and at the request of the chairman, the question was amended by Hon. W. W. Pugh, and the following specific form adopted by the committee, viz :

"On what policy do you expend or recommend the expenditure of \$105,261 08 to reclaim 15,404 acres on Cat Island?"

When Mr. Jenkins stated that it would require some lengthy statement to answer the question, that the said work was set on foot and the Engineer ordered to make a report on the subject before he came into office.

On motion it was then resolved that Mr. Jenkins be allowed time to reply to the aforesaid question.

Mr. Jenkins then stated that he had observed the letter of the law in regard to advertising his contracts, &c.

On motion of Hon. W. W. King, the committee then adjourned to meet again at 8 o'clock, P. M., to-morrow.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

FIFTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 23D, 8 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment, and on calling the roll the following members answered to their names, viz: Hon. Louis Hébert, Chairman; Hon. W. T. Palfrey Hon. W. W. King and Hon. E. Lawrence.

No quorum being present, on motion of W. W. King, the committee adjourned until to-morrow, 5 o'clock, P M.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

SIXTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1855.

The committee met at their room pursuant to adjournment, at 5 o'clock, P. M., the following members being present, viz: Hon. Louis Hébert, Chairman, presiding; Hons. W. W. King, and W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate, and Hons. B. B. Simmes, W. W. Pugh, E. Lawrence, H. McCullough, and Williams of Lafourche, of the House.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with, when Hon. W. T. Palfrey, Chairman of sub-committee appointed to examine the account of G. B. Miller, made the following report, which was ordered to be spread on the minutes:

REPORT.

The sub-committee appointed to examine the accounts of G. B. Miller, one of the Swamp Land Commissioners, report, that having proceeded to said examination in presence of said G. B. Miller, and progressed to some extent therein, they encountered difficulties in the inability of said Miller to furnish satisfactory vouchers in support of said Miller's account. The absence of these vouchers was accounted for by said Miller by his stating that said vouchers were in the hands of Mr. Grant, the engineer of his district. Mr. Miller stated that he would forthwith telegraph Mr. Grant to appear with the missing vouchers, when he would be able to furnish the same to the satisfaction of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee thereupon concluded to defer said investigation

until the missing vouchers were procured by Mr. Miller. They have accordingly returned to Mr. Miller his documents and vouchers, including those they have examined, and taken his receipt for the same, which is herewith returned and placed on file.

(Signed,)

W. T. PALFREY,
E. LAWRENCE.

Hon. W. W. Pugh, Chairman of the sub-committee appointed to examine the accounts and vouchers of Mr. Jenkins, one of the Swamp Land Commissioners, then made the following report, viz :

REPORT.

To the Chairman of the Committee, &c.:

Yesterday morning I came to the committee-room at the hour fixed for meeting Mr. Jenkins, in order to examine his accounts as Swamp Land Commissioner.

Mr. Jenkins did not make his appearance. During the morning Mr. Jenkins came ; and on my being notified by Mr. Floyd that said Jenkins was ready, and not being able to find Mr. McCullough, I called on Mr. Williams, of Lafourche, who commenced making the said examination with me. We found the accounts obscure and difficult to unravel, the vouchers not being numbered.

To ascertain the correctness of the said account, and its agreement with that furnished from the Auditor's department, we added the amount contained in the vouchers, and found a discrepancy amounting to \$1,249 46, not including several items, amounting to seven or eight thousand dollars, which were expended by Mr. Grant, his predecessor, and for which no vouchers were furnished.

We requested Mr. Jenkins to furnish his accounts arranged in due form, and we inferred that he would do so, and would notify us of his readiness to proceed with the examination. We have not seen or heard from Mr. Jenkins since.

(Signed,)

W. W. PUGH,
Chairman of Sub-Committee.

On motion of B. B. Simmes, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz :

1st. *Resolved*, That the Swamp Land Commissioners and Engineers of the First and Second Districts be requested to furnish their accounts, with vouchers therefor, on or before Wednesday, the 28th of February next.

2d. *Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Committee be requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the above-mentioned officers, as speedily as possible.

3d. Resolved, That the investigation of said accounts and vouchers will be concluded on the day mentioned in the first resolution.

By invitation, W. S. Pike, Esq., Cashier of the Branch Bank, here came before the committee, and was duly sworn by the Chairman.

Hon. B. B. Simms then propounded the following question, viz :

"Have the Swamp Land Commissioners who have kept their accounts in your bank, kept said accounts in their individual names or as swamp Land Commissioners?" Which question was answered by Mr. Pike as follows :

"The account of G. B. Miller was opened in my Bank as Swamp Land Commissioner, and his checks on said Bank were drawn as commissioner. The account of D. C. Jenkins was opened in my bank in his individual name, and his checks were drawn in the same manner; but within the last week he has opened an account as Swamp Land Commissioner. Also, I am of the opinion that the checks that were drawn by said Jenkins were for purposes connected with the official discharge of his duty."

Mr. D. C. Jenkins, Swamp Land Commissioner of the First District, then came before the committee and stated, that in answer to the question propounded to him at the last meeting, viz: "On what policy do you expend or recommend the expenditure of \$105,261 08 to reclaim 15,404 acres of land on Cat island?" he should make the following reply, viz :

"The undersigned Commissioner of the First Swamp Land District refers the Honorable Committee to resolutions of the Board of May 3d, 1854 in regard to works on Cat island; undersigned was not then Commissioner—he entered upon his official duties on the 1st of June, 1854. He did not feel authorized to endeavor to reverse the proceedings of the incumbent who immediately preceded him, whose knowledge of the country in Cat island, and its wants, was, by experience and observation greater than that of the undersigned.

"The Engineer of the First District, after examination of the country confirmed the opinion of the late Commissioner as to the utility and practicability of the works.

"There was in the District no other continuous body of swamp land, belonging to the State, of such extent and importance, or lying in such manner as to justify an immediate application of the funds to its reclamation. To have attempted to reclaim every disconnected body of swamp land, it was the conviction of Commissioner and Engineer, would have been to soon waste all the funds without perceptible benefit to the State or to her citizens,

NOTE.—Mr. Pike was here requested to produce the accounts of Messrs. D. C. Jenkins and G. B. Miller with his Bank; to which Mr. Pike replied that said accounts should be prepared and furnished to the committee. Mr. Pike was then discharged from further examination.

and leave, in a visible or permanent shape, no evidence of the utility and efficiency of the system of rescuing the property, and adding to the wealth of the State and its citizens. It struck the Commissioner then that he stood with the alternative before him of either doing comparatively little or nothing in his district, or commencing immediately works of improvement in "Cat Island" that would illustrate at once, the efficiency of the system and produce an enduring monument to that branch of the internal improvement service. At the same time "Cat Island" presented itself as a section of nearly forty thousand acres which had been much injured, if not entirely ruined, by the "Raccourei cut off" made by the State for the benefit of other portions of the country and for the interest of trade, and navigation, lying as much out of the State as within it.

With a river margin of nearly thirty miles, there was not one foot of protection levee, and no one settler could levee to protect himself without the complete extension of a line of levee above and below. The commissioner of course could not look with a certainty to what might be the action of the Legislature: but he had no reason to presume that its action would not be equitable, conservative of the interest at once of the State and her citizens, and that it would adopt its action in wise harmony with the peculiar circumstances in which it might find the works of internal improvement commenced or contemplated. If the amount estimated for completing a system of levees, drains, and culverts in "Cat Island," in its opinion might be more than should then be expended, the commissioner was assured that the enhanced value of lands, and speedy settlement of a before almost waste of country would in time amply repay any excess of expenditure in the shape of revenue, and at the same time add much to the population and resources of the State.

Estimating the value of reclaimed lands at five hundred thousand dollars, a tax of one per cent *ad valorem*, say five thousand dollars per year, it is evident would soon offset the expenditure, and a like tax is now imposed in other parts of the State. The commissioner by pursuing a more timid policy with a disposition to avoid the commission of any *positive* error or *excess* of action by himself or engineer, would doubtless have escaped much anxiety, much responsibility, and it may be, censure, or, at least criticism; and the Engineer Mr. Ritter, might not have been now, from exposure, in summer and winter in discharging his duties, confined in a sick chamber, with small prospects of soon recovering, and it is likely with impaired health, and a ruined constitution for life; but nothing would have been accomplished.

With Great Respect.

(Signed)

D. C. JENKINS,
Commissioner.

Hon. W. W. King then propounded the following questions viz: "Did you since your appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner ever proceed to the city of New Orleans and cause any surveys to be made

or investigations as to the propriety of running a levee from the Mississippi river above the city across to the lake, for the purpose of protecting the city from inundation?" to which said Jenkins replied as follows to wit: I have never gone to New Orleans for that purpose. I have never made enquiries officially, although I may have done so in conversation, verbally. I am aware that the city of New Orleans was inundated in 1849, and was informed that the city was inundated from a crevasse occurring above the city, but never made it the subject of investigation as Swamp Land Commissioner. I am not aware of the extent of loss to the city by said inundations, and I do not recollect having seen any public estimate made of that loss."

Hon. W. W. King again proposed the following question, viz: "If you had believed that the loss by the said inundation to New Orleans was two millions of dollars, and that the people of New Orleans and those below it, were two-thirds of the population of your District, and that they could have been saved from inundation by a cross levee from the lake to the river, that would not have cost more than twenty-six thousand dollars, would you have recommended the expenditure of one hundred and five thousand dollars, to have reclaimed fifteen thousand four hundred and four acres of the State lands?"

To which said Jenkins replied as follows, to-wit: "That is a very difficult question, but it is a question that calls for me to state what would be my action, upon a supposed, if that state of facts, supposed in the interrogatory, and no other consideration bearing upon the case, had presented itself to my mind, it would have been a matter of deep deliberation before acting."

Hon. W. T. Palfrey then propounded the two following questions, which were answered by the said Jenkins in the manner as hereinafter written, viz: 1st. "Have you constructed any levee from the river to the lake above and near the city of New Orleans, for the purpose of protecting that city and swamp lands contiguous thereto from inundation, proceeding from crevasses above the city?" Answer, "No."

2d question: "Why have you not done so?" Answer: "On coming into office I found that steps had already been taken for setting on foot a system of works on Cat Island. I proceeded to act upon the opinion of the engineer of the commissioner who had just retired, and the resolutions of the board passed before my coming into office. The engineer proceeded to the locality designated for the improvement on "Cat Island," and on account of the work there being very extensive, and his continued sickness after going there, with a few intervals, it was impossible to have an examination made by the engineer of any spot in the district, except where he was already operating. It was the opinion of the engineer and of the board, that it would be unwise for the present to recommend the construction of any more works requiring immediate expenditures." Hon. W. W. King then propounded the following question, viz: "Did

you not know that New Orleans suffered in 1850 from the Bonnet Carre Crevasse?" Which was answered by said Jenkins as follows: "I did not know with any certainty." Hon. B. B. Simmes then propounded the following question, viz: "What amount of swamp lands have you in your district?" To which said Jenkins answered: "I could not precisely state at this time; I was waiting for my engineer to ascertain the exact quantity of swamp lands in my district, but have not, as yet, been able to do so. I endeavored to ascertain from the Land Office, but did not obtain the information."

Hon. B. B. Simmes again propounded the following question, viz: "What other works have you contracted for except the works on Cat Island?" To which said Jenkins answered, "None other." Hon. B. B. Simmes again propounded the following questions, viz: 1st. "How often have you visited Cat Island?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I forget the number of times; I think I have visited the works on the island twice since their commencement."

2d. "Were you ever on Cat Island before you let those contracts, for the purpose of examination?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I went once to see the engineer, and to ascertain the nature of the country also." 3d. "Have you ever visited any other portion of your district than Cat Island?" To which said Jenkins answered, "Not for the purpose of examination, except once, about nine miles below this place to examine where the river was caving the levee."

4th. "Where do you propose employing the boat that you are now building in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Second District?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I had been waiting to have examinations made to ascertain where work could be done to advantage." 5th. "How do you know that you will need a boat without an examination?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I will have to state that the boat was ordered before I came into office, and that my first opinion in regard to it was adverse; that I desired to dispense with it on the part of the First District, but the Board did not concur in my views. I did not observe at the time any special need of a boat, but it was the opinion of Mr. Grant, who had just retired, that such a boat could be used to advantage." 6th. "Where do you find authority to build steamboats out of the swamp land funds?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I had not investigated the question as to the law."

The Hon. Louis Hébert then propounded the following question, viz: "Where was your residence at the time of your appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner?" To which said Jenkins answered, "The town of Baton Rouge."

Mr. Jenkins here delivered his accounts and vouchers to the clerk, who was directed by the Chairman to deliver the same to the Hon. W. W. Pugh, chairman of sub-committee appointed to examine the same.

Mr. Jenkins was then discharged from examination by the

committee. On motion it was then resolved, That a sub-committee, composed of Hons. W. W. Pugh and W. T. Palfrey, be appointed to examine the journal of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners.

On motion, the committee then adjourned until Monday evening next, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

SEVENTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 26TH, 1855.

The committee met at their room pursuant to adjournment, at 7 o'clock, P. M., the following members being present, viz : Hon. Louis Hébert, Chairman presiding, and Hon. W. W. King, and W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate, and Hons. B. B. Simmes, H. McCullough, W. W. Pugh and Williams, of Lafourche ; only member absent being Hon. E. Lawrence.

The minutes of last meeting were then read and approved, when the report of the State Auditor was read and placed on file. Hons. W. T. Palfrey, W. W. Pugh and H. McCullough, a sub-committee appointed to examine the minutes of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, then submitted the following report, which was read and ordered to be spread upon the minutes :

REPORT.

The undersigned, appointed by the Chairman to examine the minutes of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, report that they have proceeded to said examination with all the care and attention which the time allowed them would admit, and lay before the committee the conclusions which have suggested themselves to their minds upon said examination, namely :

First. They do not perceive that any works have been contracted for, without having been first authorized by the board, by resolution upon their minutes ; but all the contracts not being before them, they were not able to make a very searching examination into this subject ;

Second. They find a resolution adopted under date of 3d May, 1854, of, as they consider, a very injudicious character, authorizing the placing the necessary works to protect "Diamond Island Bend" under contract immediately upon the completion of the surveys. The estimate of the Engineer amounted to \$184,060 for 14½ miles of levee (see Report of Swamp Land Commissioners, p. 24.) Now when we consider that as, at this period, there was available for this work, to the utmost extent, only \$75,000, and therefore the work could not be partially completed before a rise of the water ; and as we are credibly informed that an inundation would destroy the work, unless completed entirely, the undersigned venture the opinion that the resolution was very unwise. We are, however gratified to find from the report of Mr. Towne, Commissioner of that district, that he has not used the funds appropriated to the district for that purpose.

Third, The responsibility of ordering the works on Cat island, if improper, which the undersigned think it was, in the highest degree, inasmuch as it seems the expenditure of upwards of \$100,000 has been ordered to reclaim about 15,000 acres of land, must be shared between the present board and the former one, the resolution of the present board under date of June 5, 1854, having endorsed and approved the resolution of the previous board for that purpose.

Fourth, A resolution of same date, allows two hundred and fifty dollars, for an examination of the Swamp Land on the Bayou Collier, in the Parish of St. James, between the Mississippi river and Lake Maurepas, with a *scientific* report of the same.

The undersigned consider this work, if necessary, the exclusive work of the Engineer of the District for which he receives a salary.

Fifth, Resolution of February 5, 1855, declines liquidating the bill of the State Printer, for publishing the Governor's proclamation of the lists of Swamp Lands subject to entry, on the ground that the fund placed at the disposal of the board, is specific in character, and cannot be drawn from the Treasury, except for purposes mentioned in the act, creating the board.

The undersigned concur fully in this view of the subject, but at the same time suggest the inconsistency of authorizing, by a previous resolution, the building of a dredge boat, equally unauthorized by law.

Sixth, Resolution of 5th Feb., 1855, allows \$530.00 to F. P. Deparras and wife, as compensation for injury to their crop, by reason of the works executed in the completion of the Lafourche outlet. Such allowances for damages sustained, under like circumstances, the undersigned consider the exclusive province of the Legislature, or the Courts of justice. No such authority is given to the Swamp Land Commissioners. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

W. T. PALFREY,
W. W. PUGH.

Hons. W. W. Pugh and H. McCullough, a sub-committee appointed to examine the accounts of D. C. Jenkins, Commissioner of the first Swamp Land District, and also of Mr. Ritter, Engineer of said District, then submitted the following report, which was read and ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

REPORT.

The undersigned appointed to examine the accounts of Mr. Jenkins, Commissioner of the first Swamp Land District and those of Mr. Ritter the Engineer of the same District, respectfully offer the following report:

They find the accounts of Mr. Jenkins balance, but the account is written in pencil and is not signed by him. The statement produced from the Auditors office is not signed.

In the Engineer's account they find a charge of seven hundred

dollars, paid for assistance, during the sickness of the Engineer. This your committee cannot approve; if any one was employed, he should have been paid by the Engineer himself, who was in the receipt of a regular salary.

The sum of \$9,214 31 received by his predecessor and expended for various purposes, is not sustained by vouchers. They also find from Mr. Ritter's account that he has paid the following sums, viz:

1855.	Jan. 24,	To J. Henrick,	-	-	-	-	\$1,661 00
		" H. M. Cobb,	-	-	-	-	3,483 73
		" " " "	-	-	-	-	200 00
							<hr/>
							\$5,344 73

for contracts, and we report the same as being illegal, the law requiring the same to be paid by the Commissioner.

In the examination of the Engineer's account we find among the incidental expenses charged, many items which we consider exorbitant in amount and needless.

We find charged the bill of Holmes & Clauss for \$72.50, and that of Languier & Lanoue for \$22.68, not receipted.

We also find the sum of \$1,207 paid for assistants, in the survey of Cat Island; a sum out of proportion, considering the amount of land contained therein.

We also find the sum of \$200.00 paid Van Wickle for contract work on section No. six, and no voucher for the same. We also find a charge of five hundred dollars for instruments for surveyor, which we do not think a legitimate charge against the Swamp Land fund of the District. A portion of this account is in pencil writing and not signed by the Engineer. The undersigned have noted some of the objections to the above account, and respectfully call the attention of the committee to the accounts themselves, as being the best argument in favor of the necessity for some decided action on the part of the committee, in order that abuses may be checked, which, if continued are certain to drain the Swamp Land fund, if not the Swamp Lands themselves. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed,)

W. W. PUGH,
H. McCULLOUGH.

The following statement was then added to the above report by the consent of the committee, viz: We find that Mr. Ritter received \$9,997 73 and expended \$8,983 63. The sum of five hundred dollars charged for surveying instruments, and for which there is no voucher, is not included in the sum of \$8,983 63. The balance against Mr. Ritter, being \$814.10.

(Signed,)

WM. W. PUGH,
H. McCULLOUGH.

When Mr. Lafayette Caldwell was called before the committee, and was duly sworn by the Chairman. Hon. B. B. Simmes propounded the following questions, viz:

1st. "What is your occupation?" which was answered by Mr. Caldwell, as follows: "I am a Civil Engineer."

2nd. "Were you ever employed as Engineer in the Swamp Land Board?" which was answered by Mr. Caldwell as follows:

"I was Engineer of the second Swamp Land District. I held the office from Nov. 1853 until I resigned in June 1854. Col. S. Van Wickle was Commissioner during that period."

3rd. "Have you had an opportunity to see much of the operations of the Swamp Land Board, since your resignation?" which was answered by Mr. Caldwell as follows:

"Since my resignation I have had occasion to make surveys in the neighborhood of the Atchafalaya river, where the operations of the Second District Swamp Land Commissioner have been prosecuted. I allude to the works being constructed over Cow Head Bayou, Bayou Laténache, and an intermediate Bayou, whose name I do not remember."

4th. "What is your opinion of those works, as to their construction and utility?" which was answered by said Caldwell as follows:

"In regard to the construction of the dyke and culvert across Cow Head Bayou, I consider the position and construction proper, but in regard to the two other dykes, before alluded to by me, their position is to my mind too near the Atchafalaya river, and their construction appears to have been made too rapidly and without regard to form. The earth has been removed from a position too near the dyke, and at the dyke across the Laténache, the excavation used for such embankment, has been taken from the inside or land side of the dyke, so as to injure, materially, land lying contiguous to this dyke, and thus destroying valuable property which lies in the neighborhood. This apparent waste and inconsiderate removal of the earth has caused both myself and my associates in this survey, to remark the circumstances, and I can state that we were told that it was done without the consent of the Engineer of the District. I think it was an imposition on him. I consider the removal of the earth from the inner or land side of the levee, where it could not be replaced by the deposit of the Atchafalaya river, as having a tendency to weaken the dyke and thus impair its utility."

Hon. W. W. Pugh then propounded the following question, viz.: "At what distance has the earth been taken from the base of the levee?" which was answered by said Caldwell, as follows: "Over twenty-five feet, the levee is between twenty-five and thirty feet high."

The Hon. Louis Hébert, Chairman, then propounded the following question, viz: "Was this earth taken from the bed of the Bayou?" which was answered by Mr. Caldwell, as follows: "It was taken from

the bed and bank, both." Hon. B. B. Simmes then propounded the following questions, viz: "Do you think that those works constructed on the Atchafalaya river are safe without the levee's connecting the embankments?" which was answered by said Caldwell, as follows: "I think they are totally useless."

The said Caldwell then made the following statement, to-wit: "Mr. Burton, one of the contractors, stated that in every case that the amount of work done, far exceeded the amount of estimates made by the Engineer, and I will state in this connection, that many responsible persons would have made bids if they had been aware of the amount and extent of work to be done."

I do not believe it was the fault of the Engineer in this case, as at the time he made the survey, it was understood that he made them by soundings on account of the high water, and he being forced to make them at that time."

Hon. B. B. Simmes then propounded the following questions, viz: 1st. "Do you know of any partiality in making contracts?" which was answered by said Caldwell as follows: "No, sir, none."

2nd. Do you know of any works having been done contrary to law, on the Atchafalaya?" which said Caldwell answered, as follows: "No, sir, none."

3d. "Are these improvements on the Atchafalaya a benefit to the lands entered by Mr. Miller?" which said Caldwell answered as, follows: "I think they are."

4th. "Which side of the Atchafalaya?" to which said Caldwell answered, "on the east side in the Parish of Pointe Coupée."

The said Caldwell then made the following statement, viz: "The lands belonging to said G. B. Miller, were benefitted by securing for them eventually, a better drainage and preventing them being overflowed."

Hon. W. W. Pugh then propounded the following question, viz: "When did this system of stopping the mouths of Bayou's commence?" to which said Caldwell answered, "It commenced in the year 1853, at the instance of said G. B. Miller, as I believe, and whilst Mr. Van Wickle was Commissioner."

Hon. B. B. Simmes then propounded the following question, viz: "Were you on the Lafourche to work when you were superseded by said G. B. Miller and Mr. Hugh Prant?" to which said Caldwell answered, "Yes, sir, early in April I was ordered by Col. S. Van Wickle, Commissioner, to proceed to the Bayou Lafourche, and there to make thorough surveys, to ascertain whether an outlet was practicable, and if so, to locate a proper place for the same. I was instructed to report my arrival to Mr. W. W. Pugh and Mr. Williams, and to obtain their counsel or advice in this matter or survey. Whilst at the residence of Mr. Pugh, making preliminary observations, and awaiting his arrival from the city, I was surprised to learn that Mr. G. B. Miller had arrived, and upon meeting him, was more astonished

to learn that he had been promised the appointment of Commissioner of the Second Swamp Land District, when other parties could be removed safely, and that meanwhile he should act as commissioner for this particular work. I at once tendered my resignation, so that I should not embarrass him in the undertaking, his anxiety to do something for the Bayou Lafourche people, was so great that I finally concluded to remain, and we went instanter to work, doing what we could do, in the absence of our instruments. We meanwhile, discovered Mr. Grant with his assistants busily at work, upon another part of the Bayou, he informed me that he had been appointed Engineer of that District, to take effect when Mr. Miller got his commission, but requested me to work with him until he could make such surveys as would seem proper; not liking the state of affairs, after I had made a few preliminary surveys, I left the Bayou Lafourche, to report myself to Col. S. Van Wickle, whom I then considered the commissioner of that District. I consider the interference of Mr. Miller, as just cause for my leaving; this was in April, and I drew my salary up to May or June, I do not remember exactly."

Hon. B. B. Simmes, then propounded the following question, viz: "Did Messrs Miller and Grant receive compensation for their services on the Lafourche?" To which said Caldwell answered, "I think Mr. Miller did receive compensation for his services." Hon. W. W. Pugh then propounded the following question, viz: "Is it customary for Swamp Land Engineers to be furnished with surveying instruments, at the expense of the State?" to which said Caldwell answered: "No, sir, it was not, I made the application and was refused by the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners; the cost of a full set of surveying instruments is about eighteen hundred dollars."

The said Caldwell was then discharged from further examination.

On motion, the Hon. J. S. Williams was added to the sub-committee appointed to examine the accounts of Messrs G. B. Miller and Hugh Grant. On motion the Committee then adjourned to meet again on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

EIGHTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 27, 1855.

The committee met at their room at 7 o'clock P. M. pursuant to notice, issued by order of the chairman, the following members being present, viz: Hon. B. B. Simmes, who was called to the chair in the absence of Hon. Louis Hèbert, presiding; Hon's. W. W. King and W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate, and Hon's. W. W. Pugh and H. McCullough of the House.

The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

When the Hon. W. T. Palfrey, chairman of the sub-committee appointed to examine the accounts of G. B. Miller and Hugh Grant, stated that he was not ready to make a final report on the subject.

John J. Morgan, Esq., was then called before the committee, who after being duly sworn by the chairman, stated, That he resides on the Atchafalaya River in the vicinity of the works erected by the Swamp Land Commissioners, to wit, he resides about half a mile below the mouth of the Bayou Rouge, on the St. Landry side below the Latenache, about three quarters of a mile, about one-fourth of a mile above Warden's Bayou, about two miles above Cow-head and Muscle Bayou, and about three and one-half miles from Cross Bayou; that he had seen the works on Cross and Muscle Bayou's about six weeks since, the works on Cow-head and Warden's Bayou's yesterday morning, and the works on the Latenache about three weeks since.

He further stated that the works on Warden's Bayou were pretty good and would stand any ordinary overflow; that the levee on Con-head Bayou was also pretty good, but that the culverts on said Con-head Bayou were said to be much injured from the fact of the arches giving way, and that about fifteen feet of the same had actually fallen in, and that he had no doubt but that the report was true and correct.

He further stated that he had always been under the impression that those culverts were of no utility, and that they would cause the levee eventually to break, from the fact that the bricks that they were built with were soft and of inferior quality, and not at all suitable for the work; that he thought that the action of the water between the earth and the brick work, would cause all the arches to give way and fall in; and that there had been bad management with the work on the culverts, that the workmen were sometimes out of bricks and sometimes out of cement, and that the work progressed badly and slowly.

The said Morgan was then discharged from further examination.

On motion, it was resolved that the clerk be directed to notify Mr. G. B. Miller and his Engineer to appear before the committee to-morrow evening, producing their papers, vouchers, &c.

On motion, the committee then adjourned until to-morrow evening at six o'clock.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

NINTH MEETING, FEBRUARY 28th, 1855.

The Committee met at their room at six o'clock, p. m., pursuant to adjournment, the following members being present, viz.: Hon. W. W. King, who was called to the chair in the absence of the Chairman, Hon. W. T. Palfrey of the Senate, and Hons. W. W. Pugh, E. Lawrence, J. S. Williams, and H. McCullough of the House; members absent being the Hon. Louis Hébert of the Senate, and Hon. B. B. Simmes of the House.

The reading of minutes of last meeting was dispensed with, when Mr. G. B. Miller was again called before the Committee, who after being informed by the Chairman that he was still on oath, stated that he had received a notice from the Clerk of the Committee that the examination of accounts, &c., would close this evening, that he believed that he had furnished a complete account and vouchers, except one or two items, the absence of which he had explained to the sub-Committee. He further stated that he had commenced drawing his pay as Commissioner from May 1st, 1854, that he had not his commission with him and that he did not know the date of it.

Hon. W. W. King then propounded the following questions, viz. :

1st. "Did you receive any pay for services performed in connection with the office of Swamp Land Commissioner before you were appointed Commissioner?" To which said Miller answered, "No sir, not before the old Board went out and the new Board came in."

2d. "Did you receive any pay for services performed before that meeting?" To which said Miller answered, "I received no pay for services performed, and only for expenses attending the survey of the outlet of the Lafourche, I do not remember the amount of the expenses, it is not far from seventy dollars."

3d. "Who made that survey?" To which said Miller answered, "Mr. Grant and myself."

4th. "Did Mr. Grant receive anything for making that survey?" To which said Miller answered, "I do not know."

5th. "Was not Mr. Grant at that time Commissioner for the First District?" To which said Miller answered, "Yes, sir."

Mr. Miller here requested to be allowed to make a statement, which request was granted, and he stated as follows: "From about the 1st to the 10th of April I received a letter from Mr. T. B. R. Hatch, private Secretary to the Governor, informing me of my appointment, and requesting me to come and go to the Lafourche, to make that examination, in connection with Mr. Grant. Mr. Hatch sat down and filled up the commission in everything but the date, and stated that Colonel Van Wickle had written to him, and he may have read the letter to me; that Van Wickle wanted to act until he could see the Governor, or until the meeting of the Board, I do not know which. I took the commission as above described, with me to the Lafourche; my object in leaving the date of the commission blank, was to comply with the request of Mr. Van Wickle to Mr. Hatch. Mr. Hatch, as near as I can remember, stated that Col. Van Wickle had been at his office that day, and wanted to see me, and would return that on the next day, and would see me or the Governor. The Governor was in the city, and I went there, saw him, and he wanted me to go to the Lafourche with Mr. Grant, and I found Mr. Grant and off we went."

Hon. W. W. King then propounded the following question, namely, "When did you employ Mr. Grant as Engineer in your dis-

trict?" To which said Miller answered, "I do not know, the account shows; I think it was the 1st of June."

Hon. W. W. Pugh then propounded the following questions, viz. : 1st. "What bayous have been stopped on the west side of the Atchafalaya?" To which said Miller answered, "The first bayou that were let was Yellow Bayou at both mouths, Alligator Bayou, Cowper's Bayou, and Crockett's Bayou."

2d. "Who ordered that work to be done?" To which said Miller answered, "The Legislature ordered Yellow Bayou, and Dr. Butler ordered the others; and since that time there has been three other bayous closed in the parish of St. Landry's, viz. : Harmanson's, Chama, and Bayou Current, the three latter being in my district."

3d. "By whom was the canal ordered to be cut, that is now in process of cutting?" To which said Miller answered, "By Dr. Butler."

4th. "Where is that canal?" To which said Miller answered, "That canal is the connecting link between the deep swamp of Turner's Bayou and Bayou Rouge, or a bayou that leads into Bayou Rouge. Turner's Bayou is the largest bayou in that country, is now open, and is I believe 42 feet deep, and Bayou Rouge is a navigable stream."

5th. "Does no part of that canal come within your district?" To which said Miller answered, "No sir."

6th. "Have you in contemplation a canal in your district on the west side of the Atchafalaya?" To which said Miller answered, "No sir." He then stated that the deposit made by him on the 9th of June of \$14,500, in the branch of the State Bank of Louisiana, in Baton Rouge, was money belonging to Mr. John Slidell.

Mr. G. B. Miller was then discharged from further examination.

Mr. Hugh Grant was then called before the Committee, and duly sworn by the Chairman, who propounded the following questions :

1st. Do you recollect when you went to the outlet of the Lafourche?" To which said Grant answered, "Before I became Engineer of the Second District. I refer to my Report for the date. I was at the time Commissioner of the First District."

2d. "Did you receive any compensation for your services there?" To which said Grant answered, "No sir, only for a small bill of expenses, allowed by the Board of Commissioners. The Governor sent for me at the St. Charles Hotel, and requested me to go, which I did."

3d. "How was the dredge boat built?" To which said Grant answered, "The cost was to be divided pro-rata, according to the amounts each district received from the Swamp Land Fund, by the First and Second Districts." He further stated that the said boat may be useful in the vicinity of Lake Maurepas, that the said boat had not yet been employed, that she is now about finished, and that she will be used in cleaning out the Lafourche.

4th. "Was there any stipulation as to the time the boat was to be

used, in either district, at the time the appropriation was made for building?" To which said Grant answered, "No sir. There was no stipulation of that kind made."

Mr. Grant was then discharged from further examination, and Mr. D. C. Jenkins, Swamp Land Commissioner, was then re-called before the Committee.

When Hon. W. W. Pugh propounded the following questions, viz. :

1st. "What portion of the time has your Engineer, Mr. Ritter, been sick, while he was Engineer?" To which said Jenkins answered, "He was sick I think in the latter part of July, and was sick for nearly a month, after which he went to the 'field,' and relapsed, and was sick about 20 miles above Bayou Sara, for some time, I do not know how long."

2d. Was it necessary for some one to take his place during his sickness?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I think for about three weeks he was unable to take the 'field,' except at rare intervals."

3d. "Is it customary for Swamp Land Engineers to be supplied with instruments?" To which said Jenkins answered, "No sir. It was a question before the Board, and as Mr. Ritter had not suitable instruments, the Board agreed to advance him sufficient to make the purchase; the amount to be deducted afterwards from his salary."

4th. "Did you receive a notice from the Committee, that your account with vouchers would be required, and that the examination would be closed this evening?" To which said Jenkins answered, "I received a notice, but I was in doubt if the examination would close this evening. I have, however, no other vouchers to produce."

Mr. Jenkins was then discharged from further examination.

On motion, it was resolved that Hons. W. T. Palfrey, and W. W. Pugh be appointed a sub-Committee to examine the entries of lands on "Cat Island," made in the State Land Office.

On motion, the Committee then adjourned until Saturday evening next at six o'clock.

ED. FLOYD, Clerk.

TENTH MEETING, MARCH 2D, 1855.

The committee met at their room pursuant to notice specially issued by order of the Chairman, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the following members being present, viz: Hon. Louis Hebert, chairman, presiding, Hons. W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate, and Hons. W. W. Pugh, H. McCullough and J. S. Williams, of the House.

Hon. W. T. Palfrey then submitted to the committee a letter from Hugh Grant, Engineer, which was read and ordered to be spread upon the minutes as a voluntary communication from said Grant. Copy of said letter.

EATON ROUGE, March 1st, 1855.

To the Hon. Judge Palfrey, of the Committee of Investigation on Swamp Lands:

Dear Sir: In Justice to me, I request the favor of your obtaining a place upon the records of your committee, viz: That Mr. F. P. de Purra refused to permit the contractor of the Lafourche outlet to commence operations, until an estimate of the damage done his crop was made, and hence it was that I assented to two arbitrators, planters of his neighborhood; whose estimate I transmitted to the Secretary of the Board of Swamp Land Commissioners, for action thereon by that Board.

That Garwood's Bayou, on the Atchafalaya, was located by my predecessor, Lafayette Caldwell, on a caving point too near the Atchafalaya river, so that I had to sanction the crection of the embankment for closing up that bayou at upwards of 100 yards more distant from the Atchafalaya than the site selected by said Engineer.

And that the Latenach site is well selected, not only back of the dwelling, but also considerably behind the saw-mill, which is far back of the houses and the Atchafalaya. Had this work been located still further back, lower land, or banks of the Latenach, would have to be encountered without any commensurate benefit.

Pray have the preceding introduced on your minutes, and oblige

Your obedient, humble servant,

(Signed.)

HUGH GRANT,

Engineer Second District Swamp Lands, Louisiana.

The Chairman then stated that the object of this meeting was to hear the testimony of Major Brown, of Iberville, but said Brown not being in attendance, in accordance with notice, the committee adjourned.

ED. FLOYD,
Clerk.

ELEVENTH MEETING, MARCH 5TH, 1855.

The committee met at their room pursuant to notice at six o'clock P. M. the following members being present viz: Hon. Louis Hébert Chairman presiding, Hon. W. W. King and W. T. Palfrey, of the Senate and Hon. B. B. Simmes and H. McCullough of the House. Hon. W. T. Palfrey Chairman of the subcommittee appointed to examine the accounts of G. B. Miller Swamp Land Commissioner and his Engineer, then submitted the following report which was read and ordered to be spread on the minutes.

REPORT.

To the Chairman of the Committee appointed to investigate the accounts of Swamp Land Commissioners: The undersigned sub com-

mittee appointed to examine the accounts of G. B. Miller Commissioner of 2nd. District and those of Hugh Grant Engineer of said district, report that they have made said examination, with all the care and attention in their power consistently with the limited time which they could appropriate for that purpose, and with other equally urgent calls upon their attention in different committees and in the houses to which they belong, and find that said accounts are sufficiently supported by vouchers, except for such items of charge of small amounts for expenditures incurred in travelling or for services rendered under circumstances in which vouchers could not be obtained, and except also the following payments stated in G. B. Miller's account namely: To the "Thibodeaux Minerva" for advertising \$16 for which there is no receipt, also to S. Gordon for Nelson for bricks and for embanking the Bayou Current \$1,900, for this amount the receipt of S. Gordon or of Nelson is not exhibited, but instead, that of L. Sigur without any authority, upon the voucher for L. Sigur to receive the amount. Also to Walthall Burton for labor performed in water at the foundations of the Cowhead and Latenache culverts &c., \$846. This is in the same situation, there being no receipt from Burton, for the amount, but instead that of another person, whose authority to receive the amount is not apparent upon the voucher. The commissioner states however that these defects can readily be corrected, and that it is his intention that they shall be. With these exceptions and the absence in the commissioner's account of a methodical arrangement of items by dates and an error in the addition of \$1000 (which was corrected during the course of the examination) the said accounts appear to be substantiated, so far as depends upon the exhibition of vouchers in support of payments, the amount charged by Mr. Miller for his expenses while on duty amounts to \$272 75.

The sub-committee further report that the sum total of all the expenditures of Mr. Miller as shown by his account, which is dated 27th February 1855 is seventy-six thousand five hundred and sixty dollars and seventy-five cents.

(Signed)

W. T. PALFREY, *Chairman.*

Hon. W. W. King, then submitted to the committee a draft made by him of a report of this committee to the Legislature, which was read, when Hon. B. B. Simmes suggested the propriety of notice being made in the report to be made by the committee to the Legislature of the fact of G. B. Miller's appointment as Swamp Land Commissioner, having been made in contravention of Article 27 of the Constitution of this State. Hon. W. W. King objected to the mention of that fact in said report, and a division being called for on the point, Hons. Simmes, Palfrey and McCullough voted for the insertion of said notice and Hon. King against the same. Hon. W. W. King was then requested to incorporate said notice in his report.

The report as amended was then approved by the committee and

Hon. B. B. Simmes was requested to submit the same to-morrow to the house accompanied with a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the committee, the accounts of the several Commissioners, Engineers &c., with recommendation that the same should be printed forthwith, and in case the said printing was so ordered, the clerk was instructed to superintend said printing and the reading of the proof comparing the same with the originals in his hands. At the request of Hons. Louis Hébert and W. W. King the following was ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz :

Messrs. King and Hébert are of the opinion that the paragraph of the report, which makes allusion to the ineligibility of Mr. Miller to his office, under Article 27 of the Constitution, should not be embodied in the report, deeming that the eligibility of the Swamp Land Commissioners to office, at the time of their appointment did not come within the province of the committee.

At the request of Hon. Louis Hébert, the following was ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz :

The undersigned being absent at the time the "Programme of the line of investigation pursued by the committee was adopted, and finding that the committee had already proceeded to some extent under said programme did not deem it right to object to this "Programme" nor did he think fit to object to the manner in which the committee conducted their investigation. But he now takes occasion to state that he has at no time fully concurred in the programme nor in the manner the investigation was conducted."

March 5th, 1855.

(Signed)

LOUIS HEBERT.

On motion, the committee adjourned, *sine die*.

Ed. FLOYD, Clerk.

LA. STATE LAND OFFICE, *Baton Rouge Feb. 21, 1855.*
G. B. MILLER ESQ.

Dear Sir :—In compliance with your request, I annex the following statement of entries made by you in the South Eastern and South Western Districts of La. on the 6th of June 1854, viz :

S. W. DISTRICT.

Sec. 3, 10, and 21, and all except S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 15, the S $\frac{1}{2}$ and N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 27—the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 35, the W. $\frac{1}{2}$, and N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 22—N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ and N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 14, all in T. 2. S. R. 6. East and sec. No. 3 of T. 2 S. R. 5 East

S. E. DISTRICT.

Sec. or lots 6 to 11, lots 1 to 4 of sec. 29, lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 of sec. 30—lots or sections 36 to 50 inclusive, and 53 to 58 inclusive, and 94 to 105 inclusive, all in Township 7 S. Range 8 East, and lots Nos. 1 to 15 inclusive in T. 6 S. Range 8 E.

Entered in the name of John Slidell.

The whole of which contain - - - 14,209, 68-100 acres.
In addition to the above 2 small Islands contain'g 81, 20-100 acres were entered by you for Mr. Slidell, on the 2d Jan. '55, numbered as section 17 of T. 6. R. 8. and sec. 125, of T. 7. R. 8. Making in the aggregate 14, 290 88 acres.

Respectfully &c.,

CHARLES C. BIBERON,
Depty. Surveyor.

I have also entered with my brothers about 120 acres on Last Island.

G. B. MILLER.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE, BATON ROUGE. }
 26th February, 1855. }

Ed. Floyd, Secretary of Joint Committee, &c.:

SIR—In accordance with your note of this day, I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed statement, showing the amount of money apportioned to each Swamp Land District of the State, together with the amount actually drawn by the Commissioners and the balances due to each District, under Act No. 133, approved 16th March, 1854.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

S. F. MARKS, Auditor.

Amounts apportioned to each Swamp Land District, under Act No. 133, approved 16th March, 1854, appropriating \$300,000. Amounts paid and balances to the credit of said Districts this day.

	Amounts apportioned.	Amounts paid.	Balances.
First District,	65,625 00	59,555 21	6,069 79
Second "	103,125 00	76,954 99	26,170 01
Third "	56,250 00	38,734 57	17,515 43
Fourth "	75,000 00	30,000 00	45,000 00
Amount paid T. B. R. Hatch, Secretary, on the warrant of the Board for his salary, stationery, printing, &c.....		1,237 28	
	300,000 00	206,482 05	94,755 23
From which deduct, this amount being the salary of the Secretary, the stationery, printing, &c.,.....			1,237 28
Balance this day undrawn,.....			93,517 95

S. F. MARKS, Auditor.

AUDITOR'S OFFICE, Baton Rouge, 26th February, 1855.

DR.

HUGH GRANT, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE OLD BOARD OF SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONERS.

CR.

By cash for works in the First District, . . .	\$4,260 00	To payments made for works in the First District, as per document No. 1, and accompanying vouchers and lists, . . .	\$4,194 50
" " " settlement of Francis Armstrong's salary account, &c., as Engineer First District, . . .	425 00	" disbursements of sundries incurred when Commissioner, of which, advanced to the 2d dis., \$100 00 and paid for the First District, . . .	297 65
" balance advanced to this account, . . .	447 09	" payments of salary account due to, and expenses incurred by Francis Armstrong when Engineer of the First District, as above, . . .	539 94
		Total, . . .	\$5,132 09
		Of the above, there is chargeable to First District, .	\$5,032 09
		and to the Second District, as above, . . .	100 00
Received back by me, Feb. 12th, 1855, . . .	\$5,132 09	Total, . . .	\$5,132 09
February 28th, 1855.		HUGH GRANT, Present Engineer 2d District Swamp Lands, Louisiana.	

DR.

HUGH GRANT, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE NEW BOARD OF SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONERS.

CR.

By cash received from G. B. Miller, Commissioner of Second District,	\$ 625 00	To disbursements on account of surveys, measurements and superintendence of draining canal, and outlet works of the Lafourche,	155 25
from same,	18 00	" disbursements on account of reconnaissance, survey of Bayou Maxel, Bella River, Lake Verret, &c.,	156 50
" per enclosure by the Secretary,	500 00	" disbursements on the Lake Bœuf reconnaissance survey,	56 90
from T. B. R. Hatch, Secretary, for expenses,	500 00	" disbursements on reconnaissance survey of the Choctaw, Plaquemine, Sorrel, &c.,	187 79
Salary as Engineer of Second District from June, 1854, to February 1st, 1855, eight months, @ \$208 33, paid to me Feb. 12, 1855,	1,666 64	" disbursements on account of surveys and attendance on the Atchafalaya Works,	218 35
error of five cts per cubic yard, for 605 18-27 cubic yards, paid to Jno. L. Daniels,	30 28	" disbursements on survey of Point Monoir, and on pike erected in East Baton Rouge at lower mouth of Fausse River,	58 75
balance in my favor, paid to me, Feb. 12, 1855,	119 76	" disbursements inspecting the Grand Levee repairs, disbursements on account of survey for, and attendance at the State Levee repairs on Bonnet Carre Point,	11 00
		" wages paid boatmen, chain carriers and staff bearer,	50 60
		" surveying boat, sail, awning and tent,	675 00
		" expenses for making charts, diagrams, &c., for annual report,	112 90
		" salary as Engineer Second District, from 1st June, 1854 to 1st Feb., 1855, eight months at \$208 33,	110 00
			1,666 64
		Total,	\$3,459 68
	\$3,459 68		

4.4

HUGH GRANT.

Engineer 2d District Swamp Lands, Louisiana.

February 12th, 1855.

Swamp Land Commissioner, Second District, in account with the Swamp Land Fund,

Dr.	Cr.
Thomas B. R. Hatch, on account of Dredge boat,.....	\$2,500 00
Hugh Grant, for salary,.....	416 66
T. B. R. Hatch, (two instalments of Dredge Boat,).....	6,250 00
G. B. Miller, for salary, and expenses incurred,.....	1,000 00
T. B. R. Hatch, for material, \$500, and Dredge boat, \$1125,	1,625 00
do " amount due contractor of the Lafourche	
outlet,.....	3,681 36
do " brick and to P. Phelan, for ditch-	
ing, &c.,.....	1,085 15
G. B. Miller, on account of expenses incurred,.....	9,000 00
do for works under contract,.....	16,000 00
T. B. R. Hatch for payment to P. Phelan,.....	1,215 00
G. B. Miller for works under contract,.....	2,500 00
C. C. Pickett, for work done,.....	837 66
W. F. Davis, " ".....	2,181 62
Peter Dillon, " ".....	2,664 50
G. B. Miller, for refunding to Jenkins,.....	2,500 00
do for bricks, for B. current embankment and	
for salary,.....	2,650 00
do for balance due J. F. Glover,.....	197 00
do for F. P. de Parra, damages to his crop, at	
Lafourche outlet,.....	530 00
Hugh Grant for repairing on Grand Levee,.....	800 00
G. B. Miller for amount received from the former com-	
missioner of Second District, S. Vanwickle,.....	2,384 38
Thos. B. R. Hatch for contract work, and for bricks,...	4,119 33
do " J. F. Glover for ditches of Caswell	
Bayou embankment,.....	18 75
Hugh Grant for W. Burton's account,..... \$846 00	
Bridge & Bothers account,.... 420 00	2,166 00
and for P. Phelan's contract, 900 00	
Carried forward,.....	\$66,223 06
J. F. Glover, for embanking Caswell's Bayou, at twenty-	
five cents per cubic yard,.....	247 05
Post office at Baton Rouge, for postage,.....	2 41
C. C. Pickett, for closing Warden and Chumee Bayous,	
at twenty-five cents per cubic yard as per	
vouchers,.....	2,174 85
McCormick and Co., for drawing paper and stationary, ..	6 25
Point Coupee Echo for advertising,.....	24 50
New Orleans Delta for advertising (old Board),.....	15 00
A. McKee, for works on Cowhead and Latténache Bayous,	
as foreman,.....	500 00
do do do do	710 00
do do per Mr. Dillon,.....	250 00
A. McKee for the aforesaid works,.....	100 00
do do do per Mr. Dillon,.....	260 00
E. Kirk, bricklayer, on order of said McKee,.....	75 35
A. McKee part payment of salary,.....	30 00
Francis Armstrong, for work as machinists and draughts-	
man,.....	400 00
James Miers for conveyance of brick down the Atchafa-	
laya, at \$8 per thousand, for Cowhead culvert,...	192 00
Peter Dillon for embanking Laténache and Latania	
Bayous as per vouchers,.....	3,854 50
Wm. F. Davis, sub-contractors for Cripps and Dillon,...	2,866 62
C. C. Biberon for Land Office plats,.....	40 00
F. de P. Parra, for loss of crop in making the Lafourche	
outlet,.....	530 00
Thos. B. R. Hatch for one quarter's salary,.....	125 00
do another quarter's salary together	
with \$25 due W. J. McCulloch, U. S. Surveyor	
General, for maps,.....	150 00
Carried forward,.....	\$12,553 53

Swamp Land Commissioner, Second District, in account with Swamp Land Fund—Continued.

		Dr.		Cr.
	Brought forward,.....	66,323	06	Brought forward,..... \$12,553 53
Hugh Grant, for salary, &c.,.....	\$2,233 49			Steamer Carrier for freight to Cowhead bayou on the
do " balance Lafourche contract,.....	7,214 69			Atchafalaya,..... 123 75
do " part beyond the contract,....	1,163 70	11,714	33	James Miers for conveying brick from Mrs. Ricks' to
do " clearing beyond the contract,.....	302 45			Cowhead Bayou, at \$5 per thousand,..... 36 75
do " hands working in swamp by				James C. Cain for lumber for Latenache and Cowhead
the day,.....	800 00			works at \$25 dollars per thousand,..... 1,184 41
				Vis-a-Vis for advertising,..... 9 00
				Thibodaux Minerva for advertising,..... 16 00
				Walthall Burton amount deposited with him to pay
				McKee on recovery from sickness to be used on
				culverts,..... 600 00
				H. Grant, as per receipt,..... 625 00
				Vis-a-Vis for advertising,..... 5 00
				Alice Glaize for freight for culverts,..... 89 00
				H. Grant, ———— as per receipt,..... 18 00
				Hutchison & Trudeau, for bricks at \$10 per M.,..... 243 40
				Hyde & Mackey for instalments in Dredge boat hull as
				per receipts,..... 4,500 00
				John Armstrong for Dredge boat machinery, and culvert
				gates as per receipts,..... 11,500 00
				Repairs on Grand Levee as per vouchers from Vanwickle
				\$600. Grant \$800 by warrant,..... 1,400 00
				R. Cripps, for embanking Garwood's Bayou,..... 500 00
				John H. Harmanson for closing Harmanson's Bayou,.... 548 04
				S. Gordon for embanking Pickett's Bayou per contract of
				old Board, (old Board,)..... 1,099 86
				B. Collins, for Lafourche outlet, as per vouch-
				ers contract,..... \$26,896 05 }
				Extension of outlet,..... 2,663 70 }
Carried forward,.....	78,037 39			Carried forward,..... \$64,611 49

Swamp Land Commissioner, Second District, in account with Swamp Land Fund.—Continued.

Dr.	Cr.
Brought forward,.....	Brought forward,..... \$64,611 49
\$78,037 30	Hugh Giant for engineering expenses,..... 500 00
	J. J. Morgan, for Notarial services, 10 00
	Jos. Davis sub-contractor of Cripps for Muscule Bayou embankment,..... 67 75
	Jno. L. Daniels for Newman's Bayou Embankment \$16 91
	do do do 134 50 } 151 41
	S. Gordon, for Nelson. for bricks at \$8 per thousand, and for embanking the Bayou Carrant,..... 1,900 00
	Holt & Hutchison, for 15,000 bricks at \$8 per thousand, .. 120 00
	Patrick Phelan for repairs on the State Levee of Bonnet Carre Point, 2,975 35
	Walthall Burton for labor performed in water at founda- tions of the Cowhead and Lattenache culverts, &c. 846 00
	Hugh Grant, per Thos. B. R. Hatch,..... 500 00
	do for balance advanced to the old Board ac't, 447 09
	do for balance advanced to the New
	Board account, \$119 76
	do for expenses on the reconnoissance
	surveys, including wages of
	hands, purchase of boat, tent, &c. 1,673 28
	do for salary from 1st June, 1854, and
	1st Feb., 1855, 1,666 64
	<u>3,459 68</u>
	Deduct \$625, plus 18, plus \$500, plus \$500—
	already credited in the preceding..... 1,643 00
	Wm. F. Davis, sub-contractor for P. Dillon, for Blaylock
	bayou, 375 75
	Mrs. Rix for 29,000 bricks at \$8 per thousand, 232 00
	P. Dillon for embanking the mouth of Sherman's bayou, 1,107 75
Carried forward,.....	Carried forward,.....
\$78,037 30	

Swamp Land Commissioner, Second District, in account with Swamp Land Fund.—Continued.

Dr.	Cr.
Brought forward,.....	\$78,037 39
Wm. F. Davis, sub-contractor for P. Dillon, for two mile Bayou,	1,103 50
P. Dillon, for balance of Bayou Latunia,	456 50
W. F. Davis, sub-contractor of P. Dillon, for balance of the cross bayous,	843 83
Bridge and Brothers forcement,.....	420 00
J. F. Glover, Ditches of Caswell bayou embankment,	18 75
B. Collins, for clearings in the swamp behind the contract work of Lafourche outlet,	302 45
Salary of the Second District commissioner, from 1st May 1854, to 1st Feb. 1855, nine months at \$125.....	1,125 00
Expenses of the Second District Commissioner while on duty,.....	272 45
	<hr/> \$80,185 75
Deduct amount charged to the 1st district for account of dredge boat,.....	3,625 00
	<hr/> 76,560 75
	Cash on hand,.....
	<hr/> 1,476 64
Total,.....	<hr/> \$78,037 39

Signed, February 27th, 1855.

G. B. MILLER,
Commissioner of Second District.
HUGH GRANT,
Engineer Second District.

*D. C. JENKINS, COMMISSIONER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE STATE OF
LOUISIANA.*

		Dr.	Cr.
1854.			
Jan. 5,	To warrant 1039 favor of T. B. R. Hatch, expenses in surveying,	\$1,000 00	
10,	By amount advanced to Engineer for purchase of instruments, in voucher, No. 1,		500 00
Aug. 8,	To warrant 1210 in favor of self, salary \$250, expenses \$500	750 00	
	By salary to self, from June 1st to July 31st,		250 00
	To warrant 1211, for Charles Ritter's salary, June and July,	416 66	
	By salary of Charles Ritter, June and July, voucher No. 2,		416 66
Oct. 20,	To warrant 1400, as per Auditor's statement,	2,125 00	
23,	By salary of Hugh Grant for May 1854, voucher No. 3,		125 00
	By amount paid Charles Ritter for works on culvert at Hardwick's Ditch, and incidental expenses of removing lumber, &c., per voucher No. 1,		2,000 00
Dec. 6,	To warrant 1760, favor of self, to be expended for works under contracts and salaries,	16,250 00	
Jan. to Oct.	By amount paid Engineer for expenses of survey, per voucher No. 1,		853 53
Octr.	By amount paid Surveyor-Genl. for maps per v. No. 4,		10 00
Nov.	for Advt. as per v. Nos. 5 and 6,		41 00
	Notary for copies of contracts, endorsed thereon,		10 50
Dec.	for travelling expenses to end of this month,		50 00
Dec. 19.	Engineer to pay instalment to contractor for 1st section new levee, on Cat Island, per v. No. 1,		4,644 72
	Engineer, for incidental expenses for assistance, &c., v. No. 1,		700 00
	Engineer for construction of culvert at Hardwick's Ditch in Cat Island, per v. No. 1,		1,300 00
	Engineer for salary, for August, September, and October, v. No. 1,		625 00
	Engineer for self,		375 00
1855.	Expenses of special messenger to Cat Island, per v. No. 7,		126 00
Jan. 6,	Contractor for three quarters of work done on sec. 6 of new levee, Cat Island, by S. Van Wickle, per v. No. 8,		2,500 00
19,	S. W. Spear, contr. lower part sec. 7 new levee, Cat Island, by order, favor of Montan,		240 00
	Wm. H. Barrow, center part sec. 6, new levee, Cat Island, as per v. No. 10,		5,555 27
	Contractor for secs 4 and 5, new levee Cat Island, v. 11, 11,		5,649 36
	Wm. H. Barrow, centre part sec. 6, bal. in full, v. 10,		2,458 76
Feb. 6,	Contractor for lower half sec. No. 6, per S. Van Wickle,		2,967 90
	C. J. Hale, contr. for sec. No. 3,		8,211 22
	J. W. Spier, contractor lower part sec. No. 7,		512 00
Feb. 7,	To warrants 217, 238, 248, 250, 251, as per statement of Auditor, from 2d to 7th, in the aggregate,	19,799 24	
	Amounts carried forward,	\$40,240 90	\$40,597 95

*D. C. JENKINS, COMMISSIONER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE STATE OF
LOUISIANA.—Continued.*

1855.		Dr.	Cr.
	Amounts brought forward, - -	\$40,340 90	\$40,307 93
	The above amounts were drawn and expended after 1st June, 1854, exclusive of pro rata of First District, for dredge boat, as per Auditor's statement, - -	\$3,625 00	
	Add amount drawn under H. Grant's administration, from 1st May to 1st June, debts of old Board, as per Auditor's statement, - -	5,589 31	9,214 31
		\$49,555 21	\$49,522 24
	Balance on hand Feb. 7, - -		32 97
			\$49,555 21

*CHARLES RITTER, ENGINEER, FIRST DISTRICT, IN ACCOUNT WITH
SWAMP LAND COMMISSION.*

1854		Dr.	Cr.
June 10,	To amount received for purchase of instruments,	\$500 00	
October 23,	Hardwick's ditch, &c.,	2,000 00	
	up to this time for expenses of		
	survey, &c.,	853 00	
December 19,	to be applied to payment of		
	contr. for 1st sec. levee Cat		
	Island,	4,644 73	
	incidental expenses for assist-		
	ance, &c., while sick,	700 00	
	works on Hardwick's ditch,	1,300 00	
September 30,	By amount paid Geo. Varnu, voucher No. 1,		63 00
	R. McHatten, v. 2,		50 00
August,	Sib. Thecker, v. 3,		43 00
September 6,	Ed. Koch, v. 4,		59 00
October 25,	Fred. Huburd, v. 5,		66 00
November 6,	Geo. W. Scott, v. 6,		125 00
15,	Jacob Koch, v. 7,		24 00
January 1,	B. Braden, v. 8,		87 00
	A. Beneling, v. 9,		60 00
	Henry West, v. 10,		95 00
	John Cantley, v. 11,		87 00
	J. W. Montgomery, v. 12,		68 00
	G. Hale, v. 13,		196 00
25,	C. G. Hale, v. 14,		100 00
	B. Bradley, v. 15,		25 00
	John Cantley, v. 16,		25 00
	Henry West, v. 17,		25 00
	Amount paid for hands, assistance, &c., in survey,		1,207 00
October 14, 23,	By amount paid for lumber for Hardwick's ditch, Cat		
	Island, v. No. 1,		724 39
	John Elliott, for transporting lumber		
	from Natchez, &c., v. No. 2,		132 99
November 2,	John Elliott for hewed pipe lumber		
1855,	at Hardwick's ditch, v. No. 3,		850 00
January 20,	Freight, &c., Bella Donna, v. No. 4,		7 00
24,	G. Heineck, carpenter employed on		
1854,	culvert, Hardwick's ditch, see v. 5,		1,661 00
December 30,	H. M. Cobb on contract for 1st sec.		
1855,	new levee, v. 1,		3,483 73
January 24,	as per Cobb's note, v. 2,		200 00
June 20, 1854,	for map and field notes, mem. A.		10 00
27,	D. Phillips, for blankets, v. 1,		9 00
26,	F. Roach, surveying apparatus, v. 2,		3 75
23,	tin-ware, &c., for camp, vs. 3 and 4,		10 60
26,	N. Dalshimer, mdse. v. 5,		8 65
October 12,	Prendergast, for groceries, &c., v. 6,		200 00
June 30,	steamer Sarah, freight, and passage		
1855,	of hands, v. 7,		34 25
February 3,	McCormick & Co., stationary. v. 8,		25 50
July 26, 1854,	expenses of two men, five miles from		
	Camp, 55 cts., half barrel onions,		
	wash board and broom, mem. B,		2 50
June 28,	offe tent, mem. C,		35 00
29,	drayage, &c., mem. D,		1 50
August 2,	potatoes, &c., mem. E,		4 00
July 20,	provisions, &c., mem. F,		1 56
August 12,	" " " " G,		2 95
July 29,	H. M. Cobb, labor, &c., v. 9,		10 00
August 13,	S. Van Wickle, potatoes, v. 10,		3 00
September 6,	Holmes & Claues, provisions, v. 11,		66 58
	J. R. Harper, medicines, v. 12,		1 48
	provisions, &c., mem. H,		2 95
Sept., Octr.,	" " " " I,		5 30
September 26,	Cobb, use of skiff, v. 13,		11 00

CHARLES RITTER, ENGINEER, FIRST DISTRICT, IN ACCOUNT WITH
SWAMP LAND COMMISSION.—Continued.

1854		Dr.	Cr.
October 23,	By amount paid for hire of horse, &c., v. 14, -		17 00
September 14,	B. M. Norman, paper, v. 15, -		1 50
October 25,	mattresses for camp, &c., v. 15,		16 50
22,	for keeping horse and buggy, v. 17,		4 00
25,	groceries, &c., for camp, v. 18,		6 74
November 29,	tin-ware, &c., v. 19, -		1 45
19,	mdse., baking bread, &c., v. 20,		6 10
9,	stationery, v. 21, -		2 70
29,	mdse. for camp, v. 22, -		24 00
10,	provisions, &c., mem J, -		57 77
December 2,	" " v. 23, -		4 00
10,	candles, &c., mem. K, -		3 20
6,	moving camp, &c., v. 24, -		6 50
17,	steamer Magnolia, v. 26, -		7 00
	for medicines, v. 25, -		5 20
23,	Bella Donna, freight, &c., v. 27,		1 25
Jan. 2, 1855,	J. C. Jaor, provisions, v. 28, -		2 25
	for Bullin, v. 29, -		2 37
11,	Telegraph office, v. 30, -		1 60
3,	freight to Bella Donna, v. 31,		16 13
25,	passage to Laurel Hill, v. 32,		2 00
February 16,	Elliott, for services, &c., v. 33,		25 00
	Largueir and Lanoue's,		
	bill, mem. L, -		22 69
		\$9,997 73	\$8,983 63
	By amount paid to contractor for sec. 6, per S. Van		
	Wickle's receipt, see voucher, -		200 00
			\$9,183 68
	Deduct \$500 loaned for purchase of instruments, and		
	add to credits, -		500 00
			9,683 68
	Balance, -		\$314 10

J. W. BUTLER, IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONERS.

1855.		Dr.	1854.		Cr.
February 7th, from May 4th, 1854.	To total amount of cash received by him from Swamp Land Fund to the date inclusive,.....	38,734 57	May 4,.....	By cash paid W. H. Peck, for salary &c., up to May 1st, 1854,.....	349 75
			" "	By cash paid J. W. Butler, for salary to May 1st, 1854,.....	299 50
			" 9,.....	By cash paid W. Welch, Inspector below Alexandria, per vouchers, &c.,.....	200 00
			" 14,.....	By cash paid W. H. Osborne, Engineer, for hire of hands per vouchers, &c., 2,.....	300 00
			June 12,.....	By cash paid John Claney, on contract, for Levee below Alexandria per voucher, 3,.....	1,000 00
			August 8,.....	By cash paid J. W. Butler, for salary, &c.,	412 65
			" 13,.....	By cash paid W. H. Osborne, Engineer, for salary, expenses, &c., per vouchers, 4&5,.....	974 62
			Oct. 4,.....	By cash paid J. G. Young, by Wm. A. Bryan, for levee work below Alexandria, per voucher, 6,.....	1,500 00
			December 7,...	By cash paid J. Kirk, for embankment over Alligator Bayou in Avoyelles, per voucher, 7,.....	2,004 00
			December 7, and Jan. 18, 1855.	By cash paid H. G. Calliham, for embankment over upper mouth of Yellow Bayou in Avoyelles, per voucher 8 and 9,.....	2,616 60
			Decem. 7, 1854, and Jan. 6, 1855.	By cash paid H. M. White and J. Kirk, for H. M. White, for part payment of contract for embanking lower mouth of Yellow Bayou in Avoyelles, per vouchers 10 and 11,.....	1,000 00
			Decem. 9, 1854, and Jan. 5, 1855.	By cash paid John Cleeney on contract for levee below Alexandria per vouchers 12 and 13,.....	2,000 00
	Carried,.....	38,634 57		Carried forward,.....	

J. W. BUTLER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE BOARD OF SWAMP LAND COMMISSIONERS.—Concluded.

1855.		D.	1854.		Cr.
	Carried forward.....	38,734 57	Decem. 9, 1854.	By cash paid Wm. H. Osborne, engineer for salary and expenses per vouchers and	
			Jan'y 31, 1855,	14 and 15.....	1,340 00
			December 18,	By cash paid John Reynolds, amount of contract for levee below Alexandria per voucher 16.....	599 10
			December 22,	By cash paid L. L. Compton amount of contract for levee below Alexandria per voucher 17.....	5,452 10
			December 23,	By cash paid L. A. Smith, amount of contract for levee below Alexandria, per voucher 18.....	1,841 70
			1855.		
			January 5,...	By cash paid Dr. J. L. Satterfield, for part pay for embanking Cowper and Crockett's bayous, in Avoyells, per voucher 19,	600 00
			February 6,...	By cash paid Levy Wilson, amount of contract for levee below Alexandria, per voucher 20,.....	11,926 20
			February 6,...	By cash paid G. B. Miller, for White and Satterfield, being balance due on contracts, per voucher 21,.....	638 85
			February 6,...	By cash paid Marksville Villager, for levee notice published per voucher 25,.....	33 00
				Total expenditures up to date,....	\$35,088 07
			February 7,...	To balance of cash deposited in the hands of H. Lynch & Co., Alexandria, La.,.....	3,050 50
			February 7,...	To balance of cash in hands of J. W. Butler,	596 00
	Dollars,.....	38,734 57		Dollars,.....	\$38,734 57

Baton Rouge, February 12th, 1855.

Errors excepted,

J. W. BUTLER,
Commissioner Third District.

*Engineer of Third Swamp Land District, in account with Swamp Land Commissioners,
May 1854, to February 1855.*

To amount paid for hire of hands, &c.	\$475 00
To amount paid personal expenses.	140 00
To salary up to 1st February, 1855.	1,875 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,490 00
By cash received.	\$2,614 62
Cash in hand.	124 62
	<hr/>
	\$2,614 62

W. H. OSBORN,

Engineer Third Swamp Land District.

Swamp Land Fund to E. B. Towne.

Steamboat passage, going and returning from May Session.	\$20 00
Bill at Harney House.	22 00
Steamboat passage, going and returning from June Session.	20 00
Bill at Harney House.	5 50
Steamboat passage, going and returning from August Session.	20 00
Bill at Harney House.	6 50
Expenses in Carroll, Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes, August, (no vouchers)	22 00
Expenses in Concordia Parish, August 1854, (no vouchers).	12 00
Expenses in Morehouse, Ouachita, Franklin, Caldwell, Catahoula and Con-	
cordia Parishes, in September.	65 00
Steamboat passage, going and returning from December Session.	20 00
Bill at Harney House.	6 75
Steamboat passage, going and returning from February Session.	20 00
	<hr/>
Total amount.	\$339 75

*Expenses incurred by the Engineer of Fourth Swamp Land District, from the first day
of May, 1854, to sixth day of February, 1855.*

1854—June 13th—Lost pocket memorandum book, containing accounts, with vouchers, to the amount of \$130 00.	\$130 00
14th—Bill of Mr. Carr and self at Sparrow House.	5 00
17th—Paid Thomas Carroll, axeman.	7 50
Paid James Carroll, chain bearer.	6 25
Paid James Sheriden, chain bearer.	6 25
Paid Mr. Bristoe, for boarding men and horses.	11 00
18th—Bill of Mr. Carr and self at Mr. Reid's on Tensas.	3 00
20th—Sundries for office, val. of Lombard.	28 00
Paid John Dental for making office table.	12 75
Paid Sam Wharton for work in office.	2 00
July 3rd—Bill at Sparrow House.	2 25
4th—Ferriages across Bayou Mason, Beuff River and Lake Larfouche.	3 00
11th—Bill at Bastrop.	6 00
12th—Ferriages across Lake Larfouche, Beuff River and Bayou Mason.	3 00

Expenses incurred by the Engineer of the Fourth Swamp Land District, from the first day of May, 1854, to the sixth day of February, 1855. Continued.

1854—July	13th—Bill at McNeiley's.....	2 00
	From May 13th to June 10th, bought of Cavileer & Rath-	
	bun, sundries for camp and office.....	24 00
Aug.	7th—Passage on Oceana, from M.'s Bend to Baton Rouge.....	10 00
	9th—Bill at Harney House.....	4 50
	10th—Passage on steamer Princess from Baton Rouge to Vicks-	
	burg.....	10 00
	11th—Passage on Columbus, from Vicksburg to M.'s Bend.....	6 00
	27th—Bill at Carthage.....	2 00
	28th—Bill at Waterproof.....	3 00
	29th—Bill at Mr. Mills', in Concordia.....	2 00
	30th—Two ferriages across Black river.....	2 00
Sept.	2d—Ferriages.....	2 50
	Bill at Trinity.....	2 50
	3d—Bill at Harrisonburg.....	2 50
	Ferriage across the Ouachita.....	1 00
	Toll at bridge, Bayou Louis.....	75
	4th—Bill at Ward's.....	1 50
	Ferriage over the Mason.....	1 00
	7th—Paid Mr. Carr, staff bearer.....	45 00
	14th—Bill at Whitehead's.....	3 00
	Ferriages across the Mason.....	2 00
	15th—Ferriages and Board at Mr. Gilchris'.....	3 50
	17th—Bill at Sparrow House.....	7 00
	Expenses incurred going and returning from Baton Rouge	
	in company with Mr. Towne.....	28 50
October—	Expenses of trip to Texas.....	20 00
	From Nov. 7th to 17th, expenses of trip to Monroe.....	31 50
Nov. 30th—	Paid R. McCabe and Sam Stephens, for services in D. I.	
	Bend.....	10 00
	Paid John Moore and R. Butts, for services in D. I. Bend..	12 00
	Bill at Carthage.....	4 50
	Hire of boat and oarsman in D. I. Bend.....	5 00
Dec.	3rd—Passage on Winona, from M.'s Bend to Baton Rouge.....	8 00
	4th—Bill at Harney House.....	2 25
	10th—Passage on H. M. Wright to Vicksburg.....	10 00
	11th—Passage on Belfast from Vicksburg to M.'s Bend.....	5 00
	13th—Paid F. M. Dawson, bills at various times.....	27 50
	Paid Capt. Hitchins, for repairs upon swamp wagon...	38 50
	15th—Bill at Oliver's, (Carroll).....	3 50
	16th—Bill at Dr. Ryan's, (Morehouse).....	3 00
	21st—Expenses whilst at Monroe and Bayou Mochoir de l'Ours	20 50
	Ferriages.....	2 50
	22d—Bill at Carpenter's.....	2 50
	23d—Ferriages over the Mason, Joe's Bayou, Texas and Despair	3 00
1855—Feb.	4th—Bill at M.'s Bend, waiting for boat.....	6 00
	6th—Passage on New Lucy, from M.'s Bend to Baton Rouge..	10 00
	Hire of staff bearer for six months, at \$45 per month..	270 00
Total.....		\$887 50

Fourth District to Swamp Land Fund.

1854—June—Auditor's Warrant.....	500 00
Aug— Do Do	500 00
Do Do	375 00
Dec.— Do Do	28,000 00
	<hr/> \$29,375 00
This amount paid McEnry & Bry, under contract, as per vouchers Nos. 1 and 2.....	5,930 25
Paid Wm. McGuire' under contract, as per vouchers Nos. 3 and 4.....	2,738 58
Paid Wm. English, under contract, as per voucher No. 5.....	8,405 55
Paid to W. H. Peck, Engineer, as per vouchers Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.....	1,000 00
Paid W. H. Peck, Engineer, as per vouchers Nos. 11 and 12	1,250 00
Paid for advertising, vouchers 13, 14, 15 and 16.....	45 00
	<hr/> \$19,369 38
Deduct three quarters salary as Commissioner, to January 31, 1855, at \$1500 per annum.....	1,125 00
	<hr/> 20,494 38
Balance in hands of Commissioner to meet contract of Ter- rapin Neck, and emergencies to be accounted for.....	\$8,880 62
E. B. TOWNE, Commissioner.	

BRANCH LOUISIANA STATE BANK IN ACCOUNT WITH G. B. MILLER, COMMISSIONER.

1854	Dr.	1854	Cr.
June 9, To Check, - - - - -	\$700 00	May 5, By Cash, - - - - -	\$1,884 38
Aug. 7, " " - - - - -	1,184 38		
	\$1,884 38		\$1,884 38

Baton Rouge, February 24th, 1855.

WM. S. PIKE, Cashier.

BRANCH LOUISIANA STATE BANK IN ACCOUNT WITH G. B. MILLER.

1854	Dr.	1854	Cr.
June 9, To Check, - - - - -	\$14,500 00	May 27, By Cash, - - - - -	\$14,500 00
Sept. 2, " " - - - - -	3,700 00	Aug 31, " " - - - - -	3,700 00
	\$18,200 00		\$18,200 00

Baton Rouge, February 24th, 1855.

WM. S. PIKE, Cashier.

BRANCH LOUISIANA STATE BANK IN ACCOUNT WITH D. C. JENKINS.

1854							Dr.	1854							Cr.
June 10,	To Check,	-	-	-	-	-	\$500 00	June 6,	By Cash,	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,000 00
20,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	125 00	Augt. 8,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	1,166 66
Augt. 8,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	250 00	Dec. 6,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	16,250 00
25,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	250 00	1855							
Sept. 4,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	50 00	Feb. 1,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	1,900 00
Oct. 9,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	60 00	17,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	375 00
10,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	103 53								
	" "	-	-	-	-	-	114 25								
12,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	52 00								
13,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	200 00								
21,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	250 41								
Dec. 6,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	211 47								
7,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	375 00								
9,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	10 00								
19,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	112 75								
1855							7,157 73								
Jan. 3,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	2,500 00								
19,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	2,500 00								
26,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	240 00								
29,	" "	-	-	-	-	-	3,354 52								
	" Balance,	-	-	-	-	-	2,275 00								
							\$20,691 66								\$20,691 66
								By Balance,							\$2,275 00

Baton Rouge, February 24th, 1855.

WM. S. PIKE, Cashier.

BRANCH LOUISIANA STATE BANK IN ACCOUNT WITH D. C. JENKINS, COMMISSIONER.

1855						Dr.	1855						Cr.
Feb. 17,	To Check,	-	-	-	-	\$3,868 00	Feb. 17,	By Cash,	-	-	-	-	\$9,625 00
	" Balance,	-	-	-	-	6,257 00							
						<u>\$9,625 00</u>							<u>9,625 00</u>
								By Balance,	-	-	-	-	<u>\$6,257 00</u>

Baton Rouge, February 24th, 1855.

WM. S. PIKE, Cashier.